INSIDE

BOOKS
Tin Tin's adventure with words

REVIEW
How the British musical upstaged Broadway

TRAVEL
Discovering a Caribbean paradise

LAST MONTH'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 445,000

No 63,579

THE TIMES

30p

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1989

US gives public warning of terror threat to Europe

Alert on eve of Lockerbie anniversary

By Michael Evans, Kerry Gill and Stewart Tendler

The US Government issued a public warning yesterday that Middle East terrorists could be planning an imminent new attack on targets in West Europe or West Africa a year after Lockerbie.

The statement, issued by the State Department, points to recent movements of Middle East terrorists in Europe and the discovery in Spain some weeks ago of weapons going into the country destined for Hezbollah cells.

The US statement was made on the day that Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the Lord Advocate, Scotland's senior law officer, announced that a fatal accident inquiry, the equivalent of an inquest, would be held into the deaths of the 270 Lockerbie victims.

The State Department decided to spell out its anxieties and risk spreading alarm as millions of air passengers begin Christmas travel — the US was criticized a year ago for issuing intelligence reports of possible attacks which reached only diplomatic travellers.

The State Department said in its warning: "The United States Government, noting recent reports of movement of Middle East terrorists in Western Europe, combined with the discovery of weapons shipments destined for Hezbollah cells in Spain and Africa, is concerned that terrorists may be planning near-term attacks against a variety of targets possibly including U.S. interests.

"At this time, we would consider the most probable venues of such activity to be Western Europe or possibly Western Africa. If credible, specific information on a threat to the public is received the Department of State will provide additional information for travellers and other concerned parties."

Night of tragedy 4

Earlier this week security officials in Paris confirmed that a large anti-terrorist operation was under way after the capture of a number of pro-Iranian Lebanese Shia. The alert was started after the discovery of 440lbs of explosives in a container at Marseilles last month which led to the uncovering of a second container in Spain on its way to France.

Investigators have talked about a collection of terrorist sleepers in France, Italy and Spain who could be on standby for a fresh offensive. A French airliner was recently destroyed in North Africa raising questions of a terrorist attack and the French have liaised with Scotland Yard over the death of a Middle East terrorist with a French passport who blew himself up in a London hotel in the summer.

All the relevant Government departments have taken note of the new US warning and details of US intelligence information have been passed to British security agencies.

The Foreign Office said it was not aware of any terrorist threat against British interests. The Department of Transport, responsible for aviation security, confirmed it had received the State Department warning but made no comment. Sources, however, underlined that the warning did not specifically refer to any aviation threat.

The inquiry into the Lockerbie disaster will be held in public before an independent judge in the new year, but is not likely to extend to foreign evidence. Lord Fraser, speaking at the Crown Office in Edinburgh, said the scope of the inquiry would be a matter for the judge, but would look into at least five main areas surrounding the circumstances of the deaths of the 259 killed in the explosion and the 11 Lockerbie residents.

It will have to establish where and when the deaths and the accident took place, the causes of the deaths, any reasonable precautions that might have been taken to avoid the catastrophe, defects in security that might have contributed to the disaster, and any other relevant facts leading to the deaths.

Lord Fraser said no firm date had yet been fixed, where the inquiry would be held or which judge would head it.

The United States Government, noting recent reports of movement of Middle Eastern terrorists in Western Europe, combined with the discovery of weapons shipments destined for Hezbollah cells in Spain and Africa, is concerned that terrorists may be planning near-term attacks against a variety of targets possibly including U.S. interests. At this time, we would consider the most probable venues of such activity to be Western Europe or possibly Western Africa. If credible, specific information on a threat to the public is received, the Department of State will provide additional information

An extract from the US warning

Terror reconstructed: The Lockerbie jumbo pieced together to show the "petal effect" of the blast from within.

Thatcher stands by quota for colony

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The Government made plain yesterday its determination to ride out one of its biggest backbench rebellions by pressing ahead quickly with its proposals to allow about 170,000 Hong Kong residents the right to come to Britain.

Far from delaying an announcement Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is expected next week to unveil plans for legislation to give 45,000 key heads of household and their families the right of abode in Britain.

After the striking show of strength by opponents of a relaxation of the immigration laws at Thursday's meeting of the 1922 Committee of backbenchers, the Prime Minister signalled her resolve to meet Britain's obligations to the people of Hong Kong in a move that will involve her in a rare clash with her natural supporters on the right of the Conservative Party.

At the same time ministers made plain their desire to publish the Hong Kong pack

China's deaf ear 7
Widow's fight 7

age, largely agreed last Tuesday by a Cabinet committee chaired by Mrs Thatcher, to enable them to get on with the task of convincing doubting MPs of its worth and of its overriding aim to persuade the people of Hong Kong to stay in the colony rather than leave.

Mr Hurd underlined that aim yesterday when he said: "We are talking about Britain's last big colony and how we should carry out our responsibilities to keep the place running between now and 1997. We are talking about ways of anchoring people there so that they stay there with confidence and do not go off somewhere else. That is the purpose of the package we shall be announcing."

Whitehall sources said: "The intention behind the

Continued on page 16, col 1

INSIDE

Portfolio PLATINUM H_2O

● Two people shared yesterday's Portfolio Platinum H2O prize of £2,000 (see page 3). They also win 100 shares each in their regional water authorities. Your chance to win the accumulated weekly prize of £8,000, as well as 400 H2O shares, is on page 21

In today's 52-page Times

SECTION 1

Home news 2-6
Overseas news 7-9
Court & Social 12
Crossword 16
Diary 10
Leading articles 11
Letters 11
Obituaries 12
Parliament 6
Saleroom 3
Science 13
Television & radio 14,15
Weather 16

SECTION 2

Business news 17-20
Family Money 23-25
Stock markets 21,22

ECTION 3

ts 37
oks 34-35
dge and chess 42
d and drink 31,32
ertainments 36
dening 39
Sherrin 28
ords 38
opping 40-41

CTION 4

t 43-45,48
ng 46,47
el 49-51

ussia mourns Sakharov

ndrei Sakharov, for more a decade reviled in the et Union as a traitor for uman rights campaigns, ou Thursday aged 68 and ident Gorbachov ibed it as "a very big

.....Page 9
Obituary, page 12
Photographs, page 16

★★★★★★

★★★★★★
C 2

Cold War control flights may end

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The Pentagon is considering a plan to end one of the grimmest of surviving Cold War symbols — the 24-hour-a-day flights of an airborne command post which would assume control of America's nuclear forces should the nation's leaders be killed in a Soviet missile attack.

The flights, collectively known as "Looking Glass", were begun in 1961 after the deployment of the first Soviet inter-continental ballistic missiles rendered America's ground-based nuclear command system vulnerable to a first strike by Moscow.

There has been to instant since that one of the fleet of converted Boeing 707s has not been in the air. Each does an eight-hour shift, and each carries a general from Strategic Air Command (SAC). The planes operate from the Offutt Air Base, near Omaha, Nebraska, SAC's headquarters.

Reports here yesterday quoted a Pentagon document as saying that instead of round-the-clock flights the fleet would be put on "continuous ground alert with a specified number of sorties a week" at a saving of about $20 million a year.

The Pentagon declined to comment, but it is understood that the plan has been temp-

Nato's new role 16

orarily postponed by Mr Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, and even if he approves President Bush would need to give his approval.

The mere fact that the move is under high-level discussion, however, provides graphic illustrations of the diminishing tensions between the superpowers, of how the US Armed Services are beginning to rethink their roles, and of how severe budgetary restraints are really beginning to bite in America.

Blow to inflation policy with increase to 7.7%

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

The Government's prime objective of defeating inflation suffered a setback yesterday with the release of figures showing an annual inflation rate last month of 7.7 per cent — its highest for four months.

Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, acknowledged that progress on reducing inflation would only be slow, but that the economy is on course for an inflation rate of 5.75 per cent by the final quarter of next year — the target set by Mr John Major, the Chancellor, in the Autumn Statement.

But City economists fear that inflation, as measured by the Retail Price Index, has probably not peaked and could rise to almost 8 per cent this month before falling back.

They are also concerned that the underlying rate — excluding mortgage rate increases — which was steady at 6.1 per cent last month, may move up in the months ahead.

Leading article, page 11
Wages fears, page 17

Flu epidemic 'seems to have peaked'

By David Cross and Craig Seton

The flu epidemic appears to have peaked, although adults will continue to suffer from the symptoms for another two or three weeks, the Royal College of General Practitioners said yesterday.

In its latest survey, the college's research unit in Birmingham said the number of people with flu or flu-like symptoms had more than doubled since the beginning of the month. During the week ending December 12, the number of cases of the H3N2 strain of Type A influenza rose from 109 to 263 per 100,000 people and the number of flu-like illnesses went up from 154 to 290.

"The increase in rates of infection week by week is similar to that seen in the 1975 epidemic, although among young children the increase has been more rapid and the levels of infection reached have been higher," Dr Douglas Fleming, the deputy director of the unit, said yesterday.

"Based on evidence accumulated over the three epidemics in the last 22 years, we can anticipate a decline in the rates of infection for young children, although the incidence of infection among adults may continue at present levels for a week or two," he said.

The survey, which collated figures from 228 GPs practising in 62 areas of England and Wales, showed that the peak of last year's flu round came during the week before Christmas when 77 cases per 100,000 were recorded. This compared with 918 cases per 100,000 during the worst outbreak in 1969/70.

The Department of Health said it had no immediate plans to import more flu vaccine from the Continent.

Dr Ian Black, medical director of AAH Meditel, a Bromsgrove-based company which collates information from 3,500 GPs across the country, said at least six million people, more than one in 10 of the population, had suffered from the latest bout of influenza. "Flu is right across the country, but there is a strong concentration in London and in a 50-mile wide band north from Buckinghamshire," he added.

The latest victim, among scores who have been killed by the virus, was a six-months' pregnant woman, aged 35. Doctors tried in vain to save her unborn baby boy. A woman, aged 62, who died in hospital was also thought to have caught the virus.

«IT takes 214 years,» Asserts BERNARD HINE, «to develop a NOSE perfectly attuned to the NUANCES of blending fine COGNAC.»

What bliss to spend one's days beneath the Jarnac sun, sampling the nectar that is Hine cognac.

Truly, few occupations can compare with that of the Hine cognac blender.

Alas however, only Bernard and Jacques Hine can qualify. Only they possess the Hine "nose", a "nose" handed down through six generations and so perfectly attuned to the art of blending fine cognac.

But herein lies one regrettable drawback, for no matter how hard they work, two men can only blend so much cognac. And for this reason Hine will always be rare.

Unless, of course, Bernard and Jacques should chance upon a suitably qualified third blender to assist them.

And such an event seems unlikely, for where does one find a man with 214 years experience these days?

HINE

After all, just how much fine COGNAC can one family make?

Army strengthens arsenal after IRA's lorry-borne attack

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

The Army in Northern Ireland is distributing Browning heavy machine guns with half-inch diameter bullets to military checkpoints after an IRA attack on a border post earlier this week in which two soldiers were killed.

Sources said that the weapons, long available in Ulster but not used, were now being "rushed forward" in response to recent use of similar calibre weapons by the IRA.

The .50 Brownings, which are air-cooled, general-purpose heavy machine guns fired from a tripod, capable of bringing down aircraft and of firing 500 rounds a minute, will be available for use at many permanent vehicle checkpoints and other military bases in Ulster.

The decision to deploy the Browning comes after an IRA attack on a checkpoint at Derryard, Co Fermanagh, on Wednesday in which the IRA used two Brownings or similar Soviet-designed guns, fired from tripods on a lorry.

That attack emphasized that the IRA, which has had the weapons for some time, has now devised an effective way of bringing them to bear at close quarters while managing to hide them from view.

The Browning's effectiveness at close range was underlined in disclosures by the Army yesterday about the attack, in which one corporal displayed what was described as "considerable bravery" under intensive Browning fire.

The Army said that the corporal, from the First Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was inside the armoured Sanger at Derryard when terrorists opened fire, at a distance of 10ft to 12ft, from a lorry reversed into the post.

According to an Army spokesman, the concrete structure was falling to pieces around the corporal as bullets smashed into it.

A second corporal, also praised for bravery, who was leading a three-man patrol in fields near by when the 20-minute attack began, managed to engage the gunman in the lorry from a vantage point 100 yards away. The Army said he moved position several times and distracted the gunman sufficiently to save the lives of other soldiers in the post.

The Army said there was evidence that Lance Corporal Michael Paterson, aged 21, who died in the attack, did so trying to rescue Private James Houston, aged 22, who also died and was at one stage lying wounded outside the post.

The IRA's South Fermanagh brigade yesterday issued a statement on the attack, tallying closely with that of the Army. The IRA said its assault would have led to the destruction of the Derryard post and the deaths of all in it but for unexpected intervention by the Army patrol in the fields.

The IRA said its unit had called on the soldiers in the post to surrender; only when they refused did the shooting start. The IRA said that in addition to a 500lb van bomb, it deployed a flame-thrower, two RPG-7 rockets, two heavy machine guns, automatic rifles and hand grenades. Most of the weapons would have originated in Libya.

It is thoughtthat at least two IRA members were wounded.

Muslims repeat Rushdie death threat

PETER O'NEILL

Ahmed Nisar Beg, Chief Immam of Manchester, reading from the Bible at the city's Central Mosque yesterday after Muslims in Manchester repeated their sentence of death on Salman Rushdie. However, they said the author of *The Satanic Verses* should not be killed in Britain (Ronald Faux writes).

Mr Beg told Muslims that the proper punishment under Islamic law for blasphemy was death. "But we are not saying Rushdie should be killed on the streets of Britain. We are saying that this is what Islamic law says should happen. It is another matter entirely to say the death sentence should be put into practice."

Mr Beg's statement came as part of a nationwide show of solidarity by Muslims for Dr Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute, London, who faces possible charges of incitement to murder after he called for Rushdie's death at a meeting in Manchester last October.

Copies of BBC videos of the meeting have been handed to the Greater Manchester police. Mr Beg said Muslims had been misunderstood. "Because we have called for his death, everyone thinks we were going to kill him here. Then Khomeini said he would pay £1 million to whoever killed Rushdie. I think he was wrong but our religion does call for the death penalty in cases of blasphemy."

The Central Mosque said the the Government's stance in the affair had been deeply hostile to Muslims.

Rover puts 2,000 staff on short working

By Paul Wilkinson

Rover is laying off 2,000 workers at two plants at Cowley in Oxford after a slump in demand for its top-of-the-range 800 models.

The company, which says that the move reflects winter sales fluctuations, is also cutting production of Montegos and Maestros at a third Cowley works.

Rover said the lay-offs on the 800 series assembly lines were an attempt to reduce stockpiles and did not reflect sales, which are 3.5 per cent up on the year to November.

Workers at the 800 series assembly lines at Cowley North and the Cowley body plant will be laid off for 26 days in the weeks starting January 30, February 12, February 26, March 19 and two weeks each side of Easter.

The staff will receive basic pay, but will lose up to £25 a week in productivity bonus.

None of Britain's other motor manufacturers are planning lay-offs.

Peugeot Talbot said it was striving to meet demand for the mid-range 405 model, while Vauxhall claimed record sales of its Cavalier produced at Luton and Astra from Ellesmere Port on Merseyside.

NUMBER VIII. TO BE A DISTILLERY MANAGER (OR NOT TO BE).

GLENMORANGIE®

10 YEARS OLD

SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT

SCOTCH WHISKY

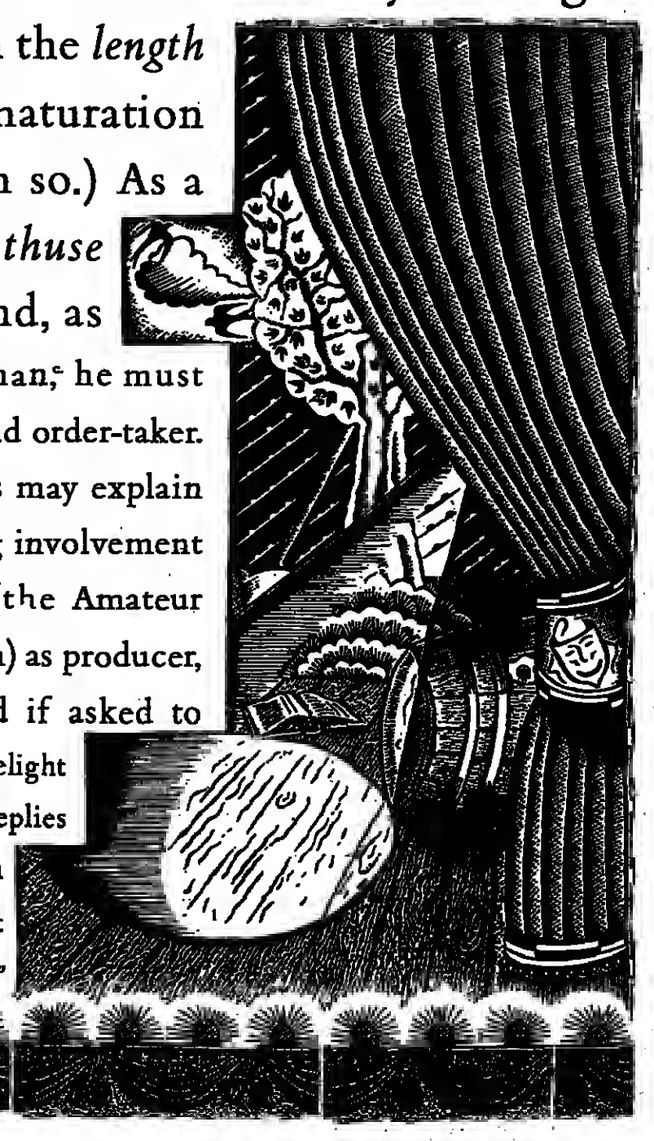
A. GLENMORANGIE WAITS FOR A MINIMUM OF TEN YEARS IN THE COOL SECLUSION OF A ROOF-SHELF WAREHOUSE, BEFORE BEING BROUGHT DOWN TO 'MEET THE BOTTLE.'

B. EACH *precious* MEASURE OF GLENMORANGIE IS THE WORK OF JUST *Sixteen Individuals!* WHO HAVE SPENT AN AVERAGE OF SIXTEEN YEARS LEARNING THEIR CRAFT.

C. GLENMORANGIE IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE MOST POPULAR MALT WHISKY AMONG SCOTSMEN, AND *they* SHOULD KNOW.

D. THE WHISKY'S OCEANS OF MATURATION OCCURS WITHIN BOURBON OAK CASKS, WHEREIN IT ACQUIRES ITS DISTINCTIVE NATURAL *golden* QUALITY; THUS IS CREATED A SPIRIT AS PLEASING UPON THE *eye* AS IT IS UPON THE *palate*.

Patience* is NOT the only attribute demanded of a distillery manager. (Though the *length* of the whisky's maturation may make it seem so.) As a leader, he must *enthuse* his *work-force.** And, as a successful businessman,* he must *placate* his accountant and order-taker. Such a *diversity* of roles may explain Ian McGregor's life-long involvement in his local 'AM DRAM' (the Amateur Dramatic Society of Tain) as producer, director and actor. And if asked to disclose the reason for his delight in 'treading the boards'* he replies wrily, "The only DRAMA in a production should be that which occurs upon the *stage*."



*HANDCRAFTED *by the* SIXTEEN MEN *of* TAIN.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Rifkind to act on fish quotas

The Government will lobby ministers in the European parliament next week to modify the proposed cutback in the quotas for North Sea haddock and cod catches. The quotas will be decided in Brussels next week.

The EC's proposal that the haddock quota should be just 32,000 tonnes next year compared to 56,000 tonnes this year has created a crisis in the Scottish fishing industry. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish Secretary of State, will argue that the EC is flouting scientific advice by attempting to arrest the decline in white fish breeding stocks in one year instead of three to five, as scientists suggest.

RAF 'deafness' offer

A woman's deafness was made worse when two low-flying Royal Air Force Tornado jets screamed overhead and her powerful hearing aid amplified the sound. The RAF has offered Mrs Winifred Glynn, aged 53, of South Zeal, Devon, £3,700 compensation without admitting liability, but her husband Richard, a former RAF man, said that the offer was ludicrous. Mrs Glynn suffered partial deafness when a German flying bomb fell during the Blitz 44 years ago.

Carrot compensation

Farmers have asked the Government for compensation because thousands of pink-footed geese from Iceland have been eating their carrot crops. The birds, protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, have been feeding in south-west Lancashire and in Scotland. Farmers affected must apply to the Ministry of Agriculture for permission to shoot them. Mr Richard Travis, a farmer, claimed he loses up to £30,000 a year because the geese invade his crops.

Fillip for festival

The Edinburgh Festival will next year benefit from a £150,000 sponsorship package from Lothian Regional Council. The deal, announced yesterday, is worth £50,000 more than for this autumn's festival, which was the first year that the council began funding it. Of the total, £100,000 would go to core funding and £50,000 to sponsoring productions that would encourage schoolchildren and other Lothian residents to attend the festival.

Redundancy award

An office worker who claimed she was unfairly dismissed when made redundant, four months after becoming pregnant, won her case against her former employers before an industrial tribunal in Glasgow. It ruled that the redundancy was unfair because of the way it was enforced, without any consultation, and ordered John H Norman Ltd, of Bellshill, to pay Mrs Jean Lawrie, aged 29, of Sherry Avenue, Holytown, Lanarkshire, £543 in compensation.

Island drinks dispute

The Western Isles Licensing Board has agreed to reconsider objections from a community council to the granting of a drinks licence to the Eilean Glas lighthouse restaurant on the Isle of Scalpay, Harris. Scalpay Community Council challenged the board at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, claiming that the decision to grant Mrs Brenda Ford-Sagers a restricted hotel licence was taken unlawfully as the council's objections were not considered.

Peugeot will build battery-driven cars

From Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent, Paris

Peugeot is to be the first big motor manufacturer to produce electric cars as part of a £150 million investment in clean technologies.

The French company said yesterday that a battery-driven version of its top selling 205 would be in production by April. Citroën, Peugeot's sister company, will make battery-driven light vans.

Peugeot scrapped a 10-year, £30 million project to build clean petrol engines because of the European Commission's tougher ruling on emission laws from 1992.

Executives said the ruling persuaded them to start a review of fuels and technologies. However, it has told the commission that the work will not succeed unless potential buyers are given tax incentives to offset the extra cost.

The battery-powered 205 is expected to be 30 per cent more expensive than the conventional model, of which 250,000 have been sold in Britain since 1983. However, Peugeot wants the European Community to encourage tax incentives, particularly for company fleets. M Jean Yves Helmer, director of the automotive division of the Peugeot group, said: "Several countries like West Germany and the Netherlands implemented incentives for motorists willing to have cars with catalytic converters. We believe that is a step the EC must take to encourage electric cars."

The company will build cars initially. However, it is negotiating with authorities in Los Angeles, which has one of the worst pollution in the world, for a potential order of 3,000 vehicles. Talks are also being held with officials in Hong Kong and Japan.

The 205 has a potential range of 75 miles and a top speed of 60mph, enough for shuttle trips. The car can be recharged simply by plugging it into the mains overnight.

CORRECTION

Lord Saint James (obituary, November 30) was educated at Balliol, not Brasenose College, Oxford.

Operation Diplomat heralds new Anglo-Soviet co-operation

Russian help secures drug-ring convictions

By Michael Horsnell

Operation Diplomat, an investigation by Customs officers which led to the smashing of an international drugs ring, yesterday became the first fruit of a 1987 Anglo-Soviet agreement aimed at combating drug trafficking.

Two members of the gang, which is believed to have smuggled up to £30 million of cannabis resin into Britain through Russia over a four-year period, were found guilty of smuggling. Three other men had pleaded guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court in September at the start of an 11-week trial, and two further defendants were acquitted.

Sentencing of the five smugglers was deferred yesterday by Judge Watling, QC, until he has heard applications by HM Customs under the 1986 Drug Trafficking Offences Act for the confiscation of more than £5 million of their assets.

Operation Diplomat, which was launched last year after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Mrs Thatcher and President Gorbachov, followed the discovery by Soviet customs officers on the Afghanistan border of 3½ tonnes of high-quality Afghan black cannabis worth £10 million concealed in a consignment of liquorice root.

The Soviet authorities offered their British colleagues the opportunity to allow a controlled delivery in order to track down the smugglers, who had on several previous occasions taken drugs through the Soviet transit route from Asia to Western Europe.

Mr Vladimir Skripnik, a senior customs officer who made legal history when he gave prosecution evidence at the start of the trial, said afterwards: "Co-operation is only possible as a result of the changes which have taken place and are now taking place in the Soviet Union. This would have been impossible not long ago."

The Russians, who are contemplating joining the multinational Customs Co-operation Council in Brussels, are regularly exchanging intelligence with colleagues in the West. Further agreements on the exchange of information are expected.

Yesterday, the jury found Martin Reeves, aged 42, unemployed from West Dulwich, south-east London, guilty of importing 3,406kg of cannabis, and Andrew George, aged 37, a financial consultant from West Kingsdown, Kent, guilty of two charges of laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking.

Earlier, James Rose, aged 53, a company director from Perts Wood, Kent, who is said to be the leader of the ring, and Alan Small, aged 54, a cleaning manager from Rotherhithe, south-east London, had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import cannabis between 1984 and 1988. Rose's son, Richard Rose, aged 25, a company director from Mottingham, south-east London, had pleaded guilty to importing 3,406 kg of cannabis.

James Moneben, aged 39, a warehouseman, from Wapping, east London, and John Reeves, aged 57, a factory manager, from Bury near Manchester, were both found not guilty of conspiracy and importing cannabis. After the case, a senior customs officer said: "Without the Russians we may not have caught these men."

Andrew George, aged 37, a financial consultant, James Rose, aged 53, a company director, and Alan Small, aged 54, a cleaning manager.

As a result of the Russian tip-off, Mr John Chapman, the senior customs investigator in the case, went to the Soviet Union in March 1988. In a remote snowbound container depot near Moscow he inspected the cannabis, then watched it being resealed with seals identical to the originals, which had been manufactured in Britain from photographs supplied by the Russians.

The two containers were then taken by rail to Leningrad for shipment to Tilbury where they arrived on the MV Baltic Osprey on March 31 last year. Fifty-two sacks of cannabis were removed from the liquorice by British officers and substituted before the containers were put into the container stack at the Essex port.

Customs investigators kept watch for three weeks with the co-operation of shipping agents, who had discovered that an importing company had been set up using fictitious names and an accommodation agency in London.

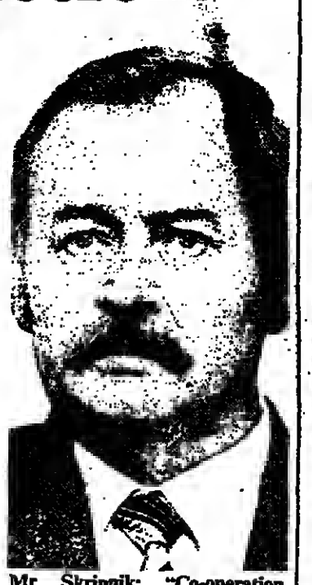
A woman customs investigator posing as a temporary secretary was placed in the accommodation agency. She uncovered Telex messages to Kabul with orders for raisins and liquorice from Afghanistan. She also saw members of the suspected drugs gang collecting mail. The shipping agents then received instructions to deliver the containers to a warehouse near Liverpool. Later, the agents were ordered to re-route the containers to a London warehouse.

A customs officer posing as a lorry driver drove the containers to the south side of Chelsea bridge, where he was redirected to yet another warehouse nearby. Customs officers then arrested four men. Further arrests followed.

Some months later, James Rose, was traced living under an assumed name on a remote Cornish farm. Investigations led to the arrest of Martin Reeves and John Reeves, who are unrelated. Martin Reeves was arrested in south London. He said he had been employed by the Rose organization as a technical expert to scan areas around the warehouses in Liverpool and London for police and customs radio transmissions.

Customs officers discovered three previous drug-smuggling missions by the organization — all from Bombay. Each load was of about four tonnes of high grade cannabis resin from Bombay. It was not until Operation Diplomat that it emerged that the Rose organization had carried out the Bombay operations as well.

Earlier, customs officers and regional crime squad police had received a bank tip-off that large sums had been paid into a bank in south-east London by Andrew George. The money was "laundered" through a company bank account and invested in insurance bonds and in a squash club, houses and cars in the names of the suspects. About £1.3 million was deposited.



Mr Skripnik: "Co-operation impossible not long ago."

As the two investigations merged, it became clear the cash came from drugs imported by the organization. Investigators traced £4 million netted from drug-smuggling over a number of years.

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

Two share cash and bonus gift

There were two winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum H_2O prize.

Mr Philip Devitt, aged 83, a retired preparatory school master from Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, said he was "wonderfully surprised" but had not had time to think about spending the money.

"I do the competition every day, but never expected to win," he said. "My wife has to help by reading the numbers, as my eyesight is not too good, and she always teases me for playing a game. Now I'll certainly go on with it. You never know, I might win again."

Mr Devitt shares the prize with Mrs Kathleen Swift, of Southport, Merseyside. Each receives £1,000 and 100 shares in their regional water authority.

IN THE TIMES NEXT WEEK

● Adam Faith, pop singer turned successful businessman, has put his name and energies behind another cause — raising money to help Tanzania's black rhino survive extinction at the hands of poachers. But Faith is tackling his task along unconventional lines and, possibly, redrawing the face of charity for the 1990s. Find out how on Monday, in *The Times*

Doctor was 'not in business of finding kidney donors'

By John Young

A doctor accused of having improperly paid money to kidney donors told a meeting earlier this year that it would be naive to think of someone giving a kidney without some form of recompense. He was not, however, in the business of finding donors.

Minutes of the meeting last February between Dr Raymond Crockett, a nephrologist, and the trustees of the National Kidney Centre, Finchley, north London, were read out yesterday at a hearing of the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee into charges of serious professional misconduct against Dr Crockett, Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist.

According to the minutes, Dr Crockett told the trustees that he would not know where to find a donor or what to pay. "I have never paid a donor," he said.

Mr John Cyster, chairman of the trustees, was asked by Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC for Dr Crockett, what his manner had been at the meeting. "He spoke with conviction and confidence, such that we were able to issue a press statement the next day with confidence that he was telling the truth," Mr Cyster said.

Dr Crockett had said that a live non-related donor was the last resort for a seriously ill patient needing a kidney. In the two months before the meeting, Dr Crockett told the trustees, he had seen two donors *in extremis*; one operation had succeeded and the other had failed.

Dr Crockett had also said that a patient for whom he had arranged a transplant some time previously had shared a room at the Wellington Humana Hospital, west London, with Mr Ahmet Koch, one of the four Turks said to have been paid for their kidneys. The patient was there on the day Mr Koch gave his kidney and he was in no doubt of Mr Koch's willingness to be a donor.

The trustees had asked Dr Crockett what would be the effect of recent media publicity. "Disastrous," he replied. "I think it is a great tragedy and it arises from the type of medicine. I work at the limits of front-line medicine and this is always very controversial."

Asked at the meeting whether he would support payment for kidneys, he replied that he was "against brokerage". There were two separate questions. One was the right of an individual to give up part of his body or not and the other was the right to receive payment for it or not.

Mr Cyster told the hearing that Dr Crockett resigned as medical director of the centre on February 15, shortly after Mr Kenneth Westall, who had been employed briefly at the centre, was dismissed because of previous activities.

He told the disciplinary hearing of another meeting at his house at which Mr Westall brought him a photocopy of three cheques made out to the National Kidney Centre/Dr R E Crockett. Sir Robert Kilpatrick, chairman of the committee, asked him why he thought Mr Westall had brought them.

"I have little doubt that he brought them with mischievous intent," he replied. He had wanted to bring to his attention financial transactions which he thought might be improper.

Mr Cyster said under cross-examination that the auditors had inspected the books of the centre and were satisfied there had been no irregularities.

He added that it was common practice nowadays to write the doctor's name on a cheque after the name of the hospital. He had been asked to do just that only last week.

Mr Cyster said he had not heard the name Ata Nur Kunter, one of three Turkish brothers who are alleged to have acted as middle men, until he read it in newspapers. He was sure he had not been on the payroll of the centre.

The hearing was adjourned until January 8.

Magnusson receives honour

MIKE WILKINSON

Mr Magnus Magnusson, the broadcaster and historian, with his grandson Jamie, after receiving the KBE at Edinburgh Castle. He said he was "overwhelmed" after receiving the honorary knighthood from Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland. The award was made in recognition of his contributions to Scottish history and archaeology. As an Icelandic citizen, Mr Magnusson, aged 60, cannot use the title "Sir". He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Oxford Univer-

Blow for Whisky Galore salvage

By Kerry Gill

A scheme to salvage thousands of bottles of whisky and Jamaican currency from the wreck of the SS Politician, the ship that sank off Eriskay in 1941, inspiring Compton Mackenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*, may have foundered.

The directors of the Glasgow-based company formed to carry out the hazardous operation next spring admitted last night that the share issue was still £178,000 short of the target of £500,000.

SS Politician Plc had tried to raise £500,000 to finance the salvage. Earlier this week, the directors extended the deadline until yesterday, believing that the shortfall might have been due in part to delays in the Christmas post.

But Mr Jeremy Brough, the company chairman, said he was still confident that the funds could be raised. All 521 investors will be asked to increase their investment.

Mr Brough said: "We know from our conversations with applicants that a large number will be very disappointed if this unique and exciting venture did not get off the ground because of a failure to raise the balance of the necessary funds.

"We are very keen, therefore, that the company should have a final chance to raise the funds which it needs. If every person who has already applied for shares were to apply for a further 280 £1 shares for every 500 they already hold, we would be able to commence with the project."

The directors are particularly disappointed because the share issue, announced in October, drew huge public interest.

If the share issue fails, investors' money must, under the terms of the Companies Act, be returned to them.

After the ship ran aground off Eriskay in a gale, more than 260,000 bottles of whisky were looted by islanders. There were 40 arrests and 15 people received jail sentences.

'Stun gun' trial judge rebuked

The judge in the racehorse "stun gun" trial of James Laming was criticized by three Court of Appeal judges yesterday for wrongly conducting his own "appeal" procedure at the end of the case.

Lord Justice Watkins made the criticism but still rejected a defence claim that the Southwark Crown Court trial, at which Laming, aged 49, was found guilty of conspiring to supply cocaine, should be declared invalid.

Laming, a car dealer, of Surrey Road, Peckham, south-east London, who has not yet been sentenced, sought a retrial. He said the indictment was improperly endorsed by Mrs Marysia Quinn, the court clerk.

Lord Justice Watkins said it was "most regrettable" that the so-called defect was not observed apparently until after the jury's verdict on November 14.

Judge Butler QC, who conducted the trial, had then embarked upon a procedure which could not possibly be justified and turned himself "into a kind of court of appeal" to hear defence submissions for a declaration that the trial had been a nullity.

"He had no jurisdiction," Lord Justice Watkins said. The matter should have been heard in the Court of Appeal.

Pressure to deliver petrol retail report

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into petrol retailing, which is expected to call for changes in the way oil companies give discounts to selected dealers, is to be delivered on time although some companies have yet to submit evidence.

The report has been delayed for two months because of the amount of information which is being analysed, but the commission is under pressure from the Government to meet the deadline next Wednesday.

Some companies have found that preliminary drafts of evidence sent to them for checking have contained serious errors and that new financial information is being called for. One has been asked to supply new data by Monday afternoon at the latest.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will be given a typescript of the report, rather than the more usual bound and printed volume.

Mr Ridley is not expected to disclose the contents of the report and his views on it until late next month. However, some companies believe it will contain only generalized analysis of complex figures and that they will be forced to challenge any conclusions based on such evidence. The main conclusion is likely to be that the present system of oil companies supporting individual dealers with price discounts, so that they can react to local price-cutting, should be modified.

It is likely that the system by which the Office of Fair Trading monitors the industry — a role given to it after a commission report 10 years ago — is strengthened. A full-time director general of petrol retailing may be appointed to oversee its competitive aspects.

BP said: "We are concerned that, in rushing, the MMC may come up with some gimmicky answer, such as the establishment of an office of petroleum supply, which won't help the motorist and simply add to the bureacracy which we already have." The report will be delivered to Mr Ridley at a time of increased pressure for a petrol price rise.

North Sea Brent crude is being quoted on the London markets at $19.55 a barrel. The price of most oil products on the Rotterdam spot markets is rising.

The commission has accepted that no companies make big profits from petrol sales.

Fears that companies would be forced to reduce the number of company-owned filling station sites have evaporated.

Big Ben stops for socialism

By Nigel Williamson
Political Staff

The Commons debated the future of socialism for what some MPs claimed was the first time in 40 years yesterday — and as they did so Big Ben ground symbolically to a halt.

The hands of the historic clock stopped at six minutes past 11, just as Mr Tony Benn said he could not think of "a single gain in human history which came from the House of Commons".

Engineers succeeded in getting it working as only the debate wound up. Its failure to ring out every quarter of the hour was brought to the attention of MPs by Mr Charles Kennedy, a Liberal Democrat member.

Looking as though he did not want to intrude he sheepishly wandered into the Commons chamber and, interrupting a speech by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, said: "Far be it for me to defend socialism, or whatever brand or variety the Labour Party is talking about.

"I just cannot help but reflect, however, as I walked in that Big Ben had stopped. Time has run out on socialism but the clock also seemed to have stopped on the Conservatism of this Government."

Parliament, page 6

Labour constituency ousts left-wing MP

By Craig Seton

Another Labour MP has been deselected by his local party, the third in the present round. However, Mr John Hughes, MP for Coventry North East, is the first from the far-left to be rejected by constituency members in favour of a mainstream candidate.

Mr Hughes, aged 64, a former miner and trade union official who became MP in 1987, is a member of the hard-left Campaign Group of Labour MPs. He was defeated by Mr Bob Ainsworth, deputy leader of Coventry city council, in a selection battle under new rules giving party members a greater say in the vote.

The ousting of Mr Hughes was being regarded yesterday as a boost to the Labour leadership of Mr Neil Kinnock after damage caused to the party's moderate image by the deselection of Mr Gerald Bermingham in St Helens South and, last week, Mr Frank Field in Birkenhead, who alleged infiltration by Militant Tendancy. Inquiries have started into both those contests.

Mr Hughes called for an inquiry into his deselection after supporters claimed there had been irregularities in the number of postal votes cast in one of five wards. He said: "We could have to go through the process again."

The claims were dismissed by Labour Party officials.

Gallery linking artists and buyers looks to flotation

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Investors can support living British artists at the flotation of the Angela Flowers Gallery in February.

The enterprise, which started on a shoestring 20 years ago, has developed a strong stable of both artists and buyers, and has one of the largest gallery spaces in London.

During that time prices for work by Tom Phillips, painter and wordsmith, have risen from £100 in 1970 to £8,000. Those for Nicola Hicks drawings have risen from £120 in 1984 to £5,500 today. Her most expensive work on offer is a group of five bronze dogs at £40,000. A celebratory exhibition of Angela Flowers Gallery works opens today at the Barbican Gallery in the City of London.

The flotation will be a Business Expansion Scheme project, whereby Mrs Flowers and her partner-son Matthew hope to raise £500,000 from selling one third of the gallery.

Mr Flowers was cut off when he tried to place a bid at Phillips's first sale of Scottish contemporary art on Thursday. Luckily he had already secured the main object of his desire: "Regimental Bath" by Peter Howson, at £6,600.

The sale — first for the "Glasgow Paps" as Phillips was calling them — took place at the Glasgow School of Art, where most of the artists originally graduated.

Top price of £17,050 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000) was "Design for Living", a painting by William Crosbie showing a youth contemplating a contraption of abstract shapes on strings. The price was a record, and a surprise.

Stephen Conroy, this year's contemporary market darling, also performed well, with his "Study of a Boy's Head" tripling its estimate at £6,050.

● Art dealers have only themselves to blame if they buy a forgery believing it to be genuine, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

In a majority test-case ruling the court decided that dealers could not invoke consumer laws to protect themselves from the consequences of their misjudgments.

Lord Justices Slade and Nourse, with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith dissenting, upheld a county court ruling that the Bayswater dealers, Leinster Fine Art, were not entitled to sue Christopher Hull Fine Art of Knightsbridge for damages under the 1979 Sale of Goods Act.

Leinster bought what was thought to be a painting by the German expressionist, Gabriele Munter (1877-1962), for £6,000 in December 1984. Experts later decided it was a forgery worth only £50 to £100.

Leinster admitted that it did not rely on the attribution made by Christopher Hull but claimed it was entitled to damages because it had lost money when the person to whom it had sold the painting discovered it was a forgery.

Lord Justice Nourse said: "The question whether goods are reasonably fit for resale cannot depend on whether they can or cannot be resold without making a loss."

DINGBATS®

a

BRE TH

Do you feel like a Dingbat?

(Find out on the next page.)

'If I did not face it now future anniversaries could be worse. The town will never be the same again'

Lockerbie looks back on the night the plane fell

By Kerry Gill

As the anniversary of the Lockerbie air disaster approaches many residents will be leaving the town to avoid having to relive the trauma of December 21 last year.

Those who remain have steeled themselves to attend the two open-air services to mark those killed and to face the inevitable attentions of the media.

Community leaders have been attending an "awareness course" to learn how best to deal with newspaper, television and radio interviews. The course was organized by journalists invited by Lockerbie's community support group to offer advice.

Mr Robert Riddet, chairman of the community council, said the course had been invaluable. He has been interviewed countless times since the Pan Am jumbo crashed on his town, killing 270 people, including 11 local residents.

"Most of the reporters were very good and got everything right, but occasionally there have been mistakes and distortions. Now I have got a better understanding of the job that press and broadcasters have to do," he said.

Mrs Ella Ramsden, aged 60, survived the disaster in spite of a section of the aircraft crashing on to her home in Park Place. "I'm the kind of person who can draw down blinds in my mind. I'm also able to talk about my experiences... I think that helps." Mrs Ramsden was on her knees in front of her living room fire opening Christmas cards when she heard the deafening roar of the jet followed by a huge explosion and an intense light across the town.

She picked up her Jack Russell terrier, Cara, and moved to her back door at the opposite side of the house. As she tried to open the door, the lights went out.

"The whole house began to shake. There was a whooshing sound and I was being sucked back into the house. Then everything went quiet. I remember looking up and I could see the sky and stars. I thought for a moment I had died."

Neighbours managed to pull her through the smashed door. Outside, part of the aircraft lay in her side garden. There were 44 bodies among the rubble.

She saw only one body and thought at first it was a local person until she learned the full horror of what had happened. It was Boxing Day before Mrs Ramsden summoned up courage to return to her shattered house, only to be led away in tears.

She said it was not the ruined house that made her cry, but the sight of her grandson's smashed cot in the remains of an upstairs room. Her son, daughter-in-law and their two boys had left her house only 10 hours before the disaster. If they had been in the house at the time, they would almost certainly have perished.

Mrs Mary Ward, aged 57, was wrapping biscuits for Mrs Jean Murray, aged 82, when the plane crashed. Mrs Murray's home in the Sherwood Park area was destroyed and her body was not found.

Just up the street, Mrs Ward crawled out from under the debris after a piece of blazing wreckage smashed through her roof. "Many of my neighbours were killed. I lost everything except the clothes I was wearing and my cat Misty," she said.

Her new bungalow will soon be finished, but she said that she would give it six months before deciding whether to stay, having lost so many friends in Sherwood Crescent. Mrs Ward said she had considered leaving Lockerbie for the anniversary, but had decided to stay. "I realize I have to face up to it. If I did not face it this year it could be worse in the future. Lockerbie will never be the same again."

The worst injured were Mr John Smith, aged 75, and his wife Janet, aged 74. They also lived in Sherwood Crescent. Their next-door neighbours, the Somervilles and their two children, were killed.

The Smiths were badly burnt and spent months undergoing treatment at Dumfries Infirmary and a specialist burns unit in West Lothian. Their hands are still bandaged.

Mr Smith and his wife are living in a council house until their house is rebuilt. "I was sitting at home waiting for *Coronation Street* when suddenly there was a loud bang and everything was on fire. Something fell on top of me — I don't know if it was part of the house or the plane — and I fell on my knees, trapped," he said.

"I tried to move it. The first time it wouldn't budge but the second time I got free. I went into the kitchen to try to find a way out but it was full of smoke. So was the bedroom."

Once he had freed himself, Mr Smith returned to rescue his wife and lead her out of the house. There were flames everywhere, he said. Even the lawn was blazing.

Since Steven Flannigan lost his parents and young sister, everyone has been trying to help him to rebuild his life. Now aged 15, Steven survived because he went to a neighbour's house to get a puncture on his sister Joanne's bicycle mended.

A friend said: "Steven has coped very well. It cannot have been easy for him but he has got on with life. He has had a lot of love and help — maybe that's one of the advantages of living in a small town."

His parents, Tom, aged 44, and Kathleen, aged 41, died with Joanne, aged 10, when the jumbo's fuel-laden wings crashed, gouging a 30ft crater in Sherwood Crescent. No trace has been found of his parents, but Joanne's remains were recovered.

Mrs Ward used to live in No 6 Sherwood Crescent. She expects to move into her new bungalow early in the new year. Last week, she went to see her new bungalow standing in a sea of frozen mud. She will move in with mixed feelings, worried about the memories that will flood back.

BOB COLLIER

Flashback to disaster: Wreckage of the cockpit section of the Pan Am jet, bound for New York, lying in a field after the terrorist bomb exploded, causing Britain's worst air tragedy.

Aviation security group to be given tough powers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

The new Aviation Security Inspectorate will have powers to halt flights and even airports until security breaches are remedied, according to a Bill oo air and sea security published yesterday.

Prompted by the Lockerbie disaster, the Bill widens the scope of government aviation security directives to include cargo, food and cleaning contractors. Offences have been created to protect the security of aircraft and airport aprons and punish intruders.

The Aviation and Maritime Security Bill also brings ships and ports into line with earlier legislation on improved transport security.

It enables the Government to ratify international protocol and conventions on security. As a result, life imprisonment would be imposed for armed attacks at airports, suspects could be extradited and the perpetrators of attacks abroad could be tried in Britain.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday in a statement that the Government had already taken action on aviation security but vigilance against terrorism could never be relaxed. The extensioo of powers to ships reflected recent international terrorism on the seas.

Mr John Prescott, the shadow spokesman on transport, said Labour would support much of the Bill although it failed to make security considerations outweigh commercial interests.

Labour, he said, wanted to see a security levy on passengers and cargo, a more powerful inspectorate independent of the Department of Transport, statutory guidelines for an X-ray "front line" and an improvement in the quality of security staff.

The Labour Party is also unhappy about the accountability of the inspectorate and the notices it serves oo the aviation industry for action to stop breaches. These will not be published; the inspectorate will only report annually to Parliament listing the number of notices served.

Mr Prescott said yesterday that Labour would table amendments to the Bill to make the publication of the notices at the time they are issued a requirement of the Act.

The Bill shows the Government has accepted some recommendations of the Select Committee oo Transport, which looked at airport security this year. It has not, however, agreed to add to the 16 inspectors, or to introduce a security levy.

The 14 inspectors who have been appointed so far will be able to take immediate actioo when security requirements are not met.

They will make at least one annual inspection of each airport and carry out out spot inspections or inspections oo specialist areas. Penalties for breaches carry a maximum £2,000 fine at magistrates' courts and unlimited penalties at crown court trials.

The Bill also empowers the Department of Transport to issue security directives to the aviation industry and many other related businesses.

Individuals will face maximum fines of £2,000 on summary conviction for giving false information about cargo or baggage; false information in applying for a pass; being within a restricted area without authority; going on an aircraft without proper authority; and refusing to leave a restricted zone or aircraft when asked to do so.

Until now police and airport authorities have only been able to use trespass legislation on intruders.

The Bill stipulates that ship operators and port authorities give the Department of Transport information on security measures for ships or ports. They would have to search ships, ports or people if required by directives.

German-based group is chief suspect

By Michael Evans and Stewart Tendler

Lockerbie investigators from three countries believe they have identified at least five known terrorists who might have played some role in the plot to blow up Pan Am Flight 103 on December 21 last year.

So far nobody can pinpoint who carried the bomb on board the Jumbo jet nor how it was done. Much of the evidence against the list of individnals is also circumstantial, although the forensic achievements have been impressive after a year of exhaustive detective work. For example, tiny pieces of scorched clothing, originally bought on Malta, have been linked to the copper-coloured suitcase containing the high-explosive bomb.

Government departments await a report on police progress made by the Scottish

So far nobody can pinpoint who carried the bomb on board

Lockerbie team — already a month overdue — as many of the investigators in Britain and the United States express anger over a crucial error by the West German authorities.

Evidence collected over the past 12 months has increasingly pointed to a terrorist cell in Frankfurt that was uncovered by the West Germans two mooths before the disaster. Yet 14 of the 16 arrested, including possibly the man who made the Pan Am bomb, were freed. Two of the chief suspects have gone to ground.

Those named below could be in the Lockerbie gang:

Ahmed Jibril, aged 52, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command. Despite repeated denials and threats to sue oewspapers for linking his name and his organization to the bombing, he remains the key suspect as the mastermind behind the scenes. A former officer in the Syrian army, Jibril founded the PFLP-GC terrorist group about 20 years ago. Although he is based in Damascus, he has personal ties with many of the leading figures in Iran.

The Lockerbie plot is believed to have originated in Tehran. Elements in the Iranian leadership, particularly the Revolutionary Guard, wanted revenge for the shooting down by the United States Navy of an Iranian airliner over the Gulf, with the loss of 290 lives.

Hafez Dalkammoni, one of Jibril's key associates and the leader of the European cell of the PFLP-GC. Dalkammoni is facing terrorist charges in Frankfurt for a bomb attack on a railway in Lower Saxony in August 1987. He was arrested with 15 others by German police in Neuss, near Düsseldorf on October 26 last year after the discovery of radio cassette bombs, similar to the one planted on Pan Am Flight 103 two months later, and other weapons.

Salah Faiz Kweiks, a Palestinian using the pseudonym Ramzi Diab. He was one of the 16 arrested by West German police, but then freed. Kweiks is known to be a key member of the PFLP-GC and may have been responsible for transporting the explosive devices. When he was released he caught a train to Vienna and was last heard of in Yugoslavia.

Marwan Khreesat, a Jordanian and a known bomb-maker. He was also one of those arrested and then freed, through "lack of evidence". He had gone to Neuss to stay with the same Palestinian family with whom Dalkammoni was living. Dalkammoni and Khreesat were seen together buying batteries, switches and digital clocks by German security agents during a surveillance operation.

When he was arrested, a barometric bomb — sensitive to certain altitudes — was found in the boot of his car. Investigators believe he may have made the Lockerbie bomb which was then taken to Malta or possibly Cyprus.

Khreesat had links to Jordanian intelligence and it is believed he was assigned as a double agent to penetrate the PFLP-GC which accepted him because of his bomb-making skills. Before he was freed, he apparently revealed he had made five similar bombs, one of which was never found. Was that the Lockerbie bomb?

Mohammed Abu Talb, the Palestinian who, with three others, is in a Swedish jail awaiting a verdict after standing trial oo terrorist charges, involving a bomb attack on a synagogue in Copenhagen in July 1985 and an attempted bombing of the Northwest Airlines office in Stockholm the same year. Abu Talb became a key Lockerbie suspect when it was discovered from his passport that he had flown to Malta on October 19 last year. Traces of clothing, which had a Maltese manufacturer's label, were found in the Lockerbie wreckage and have been positively linked to the suitcase which held the bomb.

Abu Talb has been identified as the man who bought clothes from a boutique in Malta on a one-week visit to the island. Investigators are not confident that he had a big role in the plot but believe he is a link.

Clothing is known to have been wrapped round the radio cassette bomb inside the Samsonite suitcase and that it may have been taken oo board an Air Malta flight nn December 21, the day of the Lockerbie disaster, *en route* to Frankfurt and then Heathrow. That is denied by the airline which says that none of the passengers or luggage aboard its Flight KM-180 from Malta to Frankfurt boarded Pan Am Flight 103 to London.

Abu Talb is with the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, also based in Damascus, although the terrorist group claims he severed connections in 1982.

One Swedish report said Abu Talb was found in possession of the same kind of

Evidence points to a terrorist cell in West Germany

radio bomb when he was arrested in Sweden last year. It has been reported that he was seen with Dalkammoni oo Malta. However, it has been established that Abu Talb was io Malta when Dalkammoni was under surveillance in West Germany.

Abu Talb is so far the only suspect to be officially linked to the case, after Swedish police seized clothing from his flat. The court io Uppsala said: "Abu Talb is suspected io Scotland of murder or as an accessory to murder."

However, Martin Imandi, aged 33, a Syrian-born Swedish national, charged with Abu Talb, is also known to have had links with the PFLP-GC. His car with Swedish number plates was seen outside the flat io Frankfurt where the bombs were found.

Prime suspects: Dalkammoni, leader of a terrorist cell based in Europe (left), Abu Talb (centre), awaiting the verdict of a Swedish court, and Jibril, who founded the PLFP-GC.

Relatives in fight to know what happened

From Susan Ellicott
Washington

The relatives of those who died on Pan Am 103 speak of the psychological scars they will always bear, but a commitment to prevent a repeat disaster provides a speck of hope in harrowing periods of grief.

"The 21st of December will be a nightmare," Mrs Susan Cohen said, looking ahead to the first anniversary of the death of her daughter, Theodora. "I spent this morning curled up in the bathroom crying my head off and wishing I was dead. I live with this pain every day."

Mrs Cohen says she and her husband, Daniel, have been unable to continue properly this year their jobs as freelance writers. Instead, they have joined other family members in lobbying the United States Administration and the airline industry to investigate the deaths of the 192 American civilians killed in the terrorist attack. "I have no choice, they murdered my child," she said.

The families believe that the disaster could have been prevented but for poor airline security, mishandled intelligence and the selective warning by the US government to its employees about an anonymous bomb threat during December last year. They also say that the US State Department treated them callously during their many inquiries and did not even accord their relatives a memorial service.

Eventually, the families succeeded in pressing President Bush to appoint a commission to investigate the disaster and present its findings by early May. The relatives have gone on radio and television talk shows to promote their cause.

They want to know whether the bomb exploded because of negligence on the part of the Federal Aviation Administration or Pan Am.

"If we don't push, they're never going to do anything," Mrs Kathleen Flynn, who lost her husband, said after a Senate hearing last month. "It's so annoying because you know damn well they know what's going on."

The families, who have split into two groups, emphasize that they are not interested solely in the terrorists but in tightening international airline security, iocluding outlawing portable electronic devices aboard aircraft. They also want to know why the US government warned only its employees of a terrorist threat.

Most of the families filed suits against Pan Am for damages. Litigation is proceeding, although no results are expected before next summer. They are appalled at what they have discovered during their inquiries, particularly the lax security io the airline industry.

Mr Paul Hudson, a New York lawyer whn lost his only daughter, Melina, aged 16, said: "When this happened, I assumed that we basically had a secure system and that the terrorists found a loophole and that they (airlines) would plug it. I think now there would be very few of us who would be willing to fly Pan Am or any American carrier."

He and his wife, Eleanor, will be among about 20 relatives who will visit Lockerbie for the anniversary of the crash. Others prefer to stay at home to deal with their grief.

Many are horrified that their country appears to ignore that Iran may have been involved in the bombing of Pan Am 103 in retaliation for the shooting down of an Iranian airbus by the USS Vincennes on July 4, 1988.

"Deep down, I know I am a very different person as a result of this," said Mrs Eleanor Bright, who lost her husband, Nick, and is bringing up their son, aged two.

"I used to have a great sense of patriotism about my country, and now I have none."

Syrians seek terrorist evidence

Syria has promised the United States that it will take action against a Palestinian terrorist group suspected of being responsible for the Lockerbie bombing if there is evidence that the Damascus-based organizatioo was responsible (Susan Ellicott writes from Washington).

The US State Department issued its clearest statement so far, indicating that it believes the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command was the main suspect behind the attack. A bomb made from a portable radio-cassette player packed with plastic explosives went off 39 minutes after leaving London for New York, killing 270.

"To date, we're not satisfied with the Syrian government's responses and we think it can do more," the State Department said. "We have discussed Pan Am 103 with the Syrians on a number of occasions in diplomatic circles. We have urged their full cooperation in finding those responsible."

The Syrian government has said it will crack down on the group, which is led by Ahmed Jibril, if it is "presented with firm evidence that any group or individuals within its purview are responsible".

Although the US is not suggesting Syria is behind the bombing, some of Jibril's training camps are in Syrian-controlled parts of Lebanon. His headquarters are in Damascus.

One widely held theory is that Iran paid Jibril $1 million to blow up Pan Am 103 in retaliation for the shooting down of an Iranian airbus by the USS Vincennes on July 3 last year. The US Navy said it was an accident.

Washington would like President Assad of Syria to expel Jabril, although intelligence specialists say he has established close links with Iran and could easily move his operations there. Washington has frequently berated Syria about allowing terrorist groups to work from Damascus.

The State Department said the issue is "a major item on our bilateral agenda".

Sheriff wins case against tax demand on workroom

A sheriff yesterday returned to his old courtroom to be told that he had won a battle against a poll tax demand for a stone cottage that he uses as a potting shed and workroom.

Another sheriff, who was brought in to settle the dispute, said the legislation had not provided him with sufficient guidance and he had accordingly had to interpret Parliament's intention.

Sheriff Norman Ramsay, aged 73, who retired from Kirkcudbright Sheriff Court four years ago but who still sits occasionally, had been faced with a demand for £485 after poll tax officials ruled that the cottage was a second home.

He and his wife had bought the small estate of Mill of Borgue, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, which included the three-bedroom mill where he lives

Sheriff Ramsay: No poll tax on his cottage retreat.

with his wife, Rachael, a former Scout Commissioner for Galloway.

The sale included the crumbling cottage, part of which the Ramsays now use as a guest bedroom and bathroom.

Sheriff Rodney Cairns, from Greenock, who was brought in to settle the issue between the Ramsays and Mr John Docherty, the community registration officer for Dumfries and Galloway, was told that the porch was filled with house plants and that the living room was used almost daily as a workroom and potting shed.

Parts of the cottage were used as sheds to store garden machinery, tools and other equipment. Scouting paraphernalia such as tents, crockery and signposts were stored in the loft. Sheriff Cairns said yesterday: "Sheriff Ramsay is frequently 'banished' by his wife to the workshop to pot plants, use power tools and generally pursue such of his hobbies as she found unacceptable within the confines of her sitting room."

"The couple have always regarded the mill and cottage as together being their home and their dwellinghouse. They have never let the cottage to tenants and have no such intention for the future. They have not charged friends and relations staying there."

Mr John Docherty, the poll tax officer, said it was a very important appeal. The decision could affect many cases in the future.

In his judgement, Sheriff Cairns said that, while the two actual buildings or structures might be physically removed from each other by a distance of some 57 yards, in all other respects they could not, in his opinion, be separated. They formed one domestic unit which was the sole residence of the applicants.

He said: "Turning to law, I could obtain no guidance whatsoever from the Act itself as it is totally devoid of an interpretation section. The word 'premises' does not have any prescribed meaning in terms of the law of Scotland. It would appear to be an English term, used to describe virtually any form of dwelling." Sheriff Cairns said he had decided that the cottage was clearly "premises".

"I felt that in the absence of an interpretation section, I would require to... consider what Parliament intended in passing this Act.

"I considered that the intention was to levy an additional tax in respect of 'second houses' and in particular on holiday homes. I did not consider it to be the intention to impose a standard community charge on the everyday dwelling or residence of an individual, even though structurally this may comprise more than one building."

Sheriff Ramsay and his wife were awarded costs. A spokesman for the community charge department said it would look at the judgement in detail before deciding if it would appeal.

Thatcher praises British high flyer

The Prime Minister being briefed by Captain John Duncan on the flightdeck of an A320 before her first trip in the aircraft.

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Prime Minister yesterday took a ride on a European Airbus to demonstrate her unswerving commitment to British technology and in particular that slice of it run by British Aerospace.

Undisturbed by recent disclosures of government "sweeteners" to BAe to buy the Rover Car Group, Mrs Thatcher flew to Bristol to open a £15 million technical and computer centre and to declare that the company's role in the British economy was "absolutely vital". She was presented with a bronze replica of a sculpture depicting endeavour, being commissioned for the centre.

Mrs Thatcher flew for the first time on a European Airbus A320, registered as G-Bush and known colloquially inside British Airways as George. She was welcomed at Filton airport in Bristol by Professor Roland Smith, chairman of BAe, who showed her the aircraft's wings — the one part of it built by BAe.

About 1,000 staff are to work in the centre. The Prime Minister watched technicians operating computer-aided design and said she hoped to be around when the next model of Airbus was built.

Degree-wrangle man must put case to a rehearing

By Paul Wilkinson

A student who was denied an honours degree after accusations of cheating in his final examinations three years ago has failed in his latest attempt to win the award.

An appeal committee set up by Bristol University ruled yesterday against a submission from Mr Francis Foecke that too much time had passed since the incident for him to receive a fair hearing and that the degree should no longer be withheld.

He must now put his case to a full hearing of the committee in February.

Mr Foecke, aged 31, of Clifton, Bristol, was refused a first-class degree in mathematics and computer science after examiners ruled that he had cheated in three questions in 1986. Mr Foecke was given a pass degree, suspended for five years.

He has fought to clear his name by internal appeal and in court. He petitioned the Queen, the university Visitor, and the Privy Council, on her behalf, ordered a rehearing of the case.

In a written judgement released yesterday, Professor Michael Furmston, the appeal committee chairman, said the appeal could go ahead without denying justice to him.

● Parents are still financing school visits although they can no longer be compelled to and many schools are unclear about the rules, according to a report of the schools inspectors published yesterday (David Tytler writes).

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act, schools can no longer automatically charge parents for outings, although certain charges can be made and parents can be asked for a voluntary contribution.

The report says many teachers do not understand rules laid down by the Department of Education and Science, and, as a result, some volunteer helpers were asked to pay their own transport costs.

● The Government was accused yesterday of dragging its feet in implementing eight-year-old legislation designed to ensure that children with mental, physical or learning difficulties are not excluded from mainstream schools (Douglas Broom writes).

The Centre for Studies on Integration in Education, a pressure group formed by teachers, said there had been "little movement" towards proper integration. The 1981 Education Act placed a duty on local education authorities to educate children with special needs in the same classrooms as ordinary pupils.

Hotel plan rejected

Plans for a 1,000-bed hotel and 32-acre business park in an area of high unemployment have been rejected by Strathclyde regional council's planning committee. GSBrown Construction wants to build on Green Belt sites between Monklands and Motherwell. It is to appeal to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Tom Rae, the planning committee chairman, said there were plenty of derelict sites in the area that could be redeveloped. He was confident more would be achieved for the local community if the council protected the countryside.

Health drive

A mobile health clinic is to tour the remote areas of Dumfries and Galloway, serving schools, factories, women and the elderly.

Scene change

The Old Rectory in Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, childhood home of Lord Olivier, is for sale at £275,000.

Drugs battle

The Strathclyde committee of the Prince's Trust has donated £1,800 to a community group spreading the anti-drugs message in the sprawling Castlemilk estate, Glasgow.

Disaster aid

Victims of the Hillsborough soccer disaster have received more than £7.5 million of aid from the £11.3 million raised so far.

Homes offer

Richmond-upon-Thames council is offering to house 40 Vietnamese children facing repatriation from Hong Hong. The council has taken boat people for four years.

Alcohol bar

All 93 city centre public houses in Nottingham will close on New Year's Day because of fears of soccer violence when Nottingham Forest play Liverpool.

End of the line

Hall's rope works at Barton-upon-Humber closed yesterday with the loss of nearly 90 jobs after 200 years.

Test failures

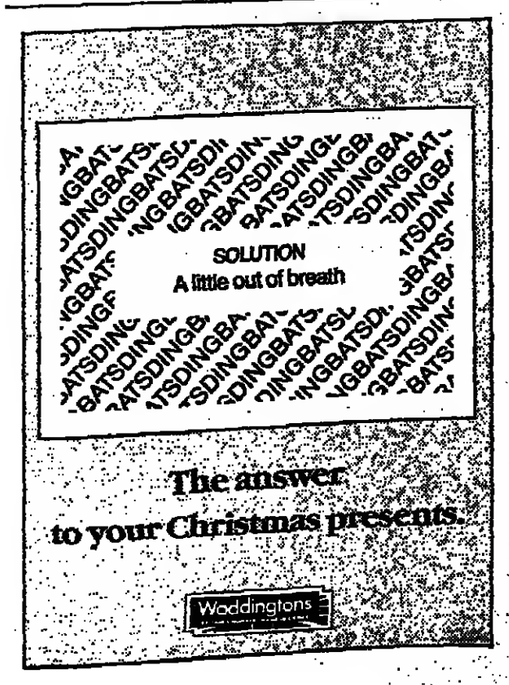
Police in Avon and Somerset are to prosecute 68 drivers who failed breath tests out of 800 tested and 4,476 stopped in a pre-Christmas campaign.

Sales too slow

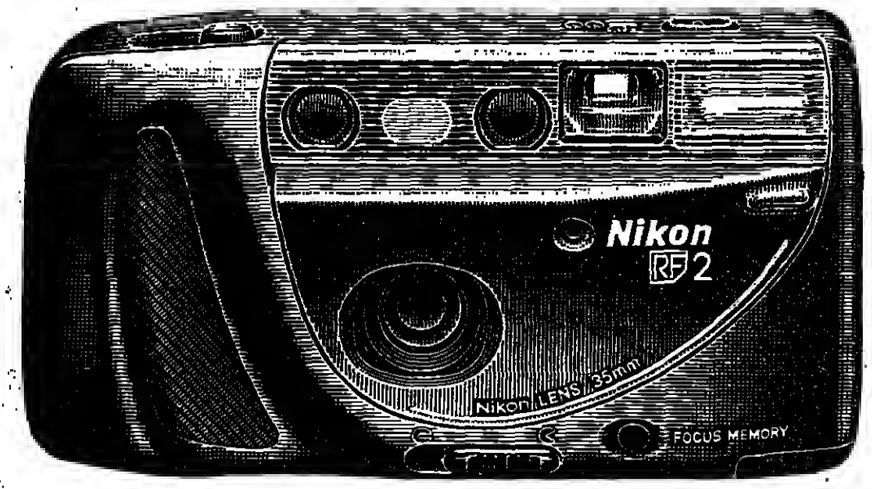
Forty-five workers at Metamec, a clock and lighting factory at Dereham, Norfolk, were laid off yesterday because of a slump in sales.

Heritage cash

Strathclyde regional council is to spend almost £1 million on projects recognizing the genius of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Glasgow's best known architect.



BUY THE BEST NOW



AND SAVE £75

YEAR AFTER YEAR AFTER YEAR

You can't buy a better compact camera than Nikon – as any pro who knows his stuff will tell you.

And you couldn't pick a better time to buy than today – as your nearest Nikon dealer will willingly explain.

You see, *every* single camera in our compact range carries a fantastic extra offer. If you buy between now and the end of the year, you get a minimum of £75 cash back, *every year* for the next three years – when you book from an extensive range of 14 night foreign holidays for two adults, through our own ABTA travel service.

Invest in the best now. Enjoy the dividends later.

The amazingly simple Fun Touch 2 featured above, at £99.95, lets you point and shoot for perfect pictures, every time. The Nikon range also includes the "red-eye" reducing Tele Wide 20 and the TW Zoom, that can even think for you.

From Nikon Authorised Dealers and Dixons. Or for a colour brochure call 01-541 4440. Ext: "Cash-back."

Nikon OFFICIAL CAMERA XIVth COMMONWEALTH GAMES Auckland, 1990

NIKON UK LTD., NIKON HOUSE, 380 RICHMOND ROAD, Nikon KINGSTON, SURREY KT2 5PR. TELEPHONE: 01-541 4440.

Disillusioned ambulance officers leave for a new life in Australia

Crews refuse to answer emergency calls

By Mark Souster

Industrial action in the ambulance dispute intensified yesterday with crews in London refusing to answer emergency calls put through by their controllers.

Unions and management stepped up their war of words after talks broke down on Thursday, with both sides as far apart as ever. Each blamed the other for lack of progress to the 14-week dispute.

Mr Chris Humphreys, London regional officer for National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), said fresh management demands, spelled out in a letter from Mr Tom Crosby, acting chief ambulance officer, had escalated the dispute.

Managers said the staff would be regarded as absent and pay would be stopped unless crew members telephoned control to say they were ready to work. A handful were then stood down. All calls, including the 20 per cent handled by suspended crews until yesterday, were being dealt with by the Metropolitan Police, who reported no problems.

Individual stations have circulated their ex-directory telephone numbers to the public, doctors and emergency services in a development which Mr Bill Taylor, operations director, described as "adding to the confusion". He urged the public to continue using the 999 service. The unions, which dismissed as a gimmick a Christmas truce offered by management, predicted chaos over the holiday period.

"They don't have a cat in hell's chance of meeting their obligations short of bringing half the Army back from the Rhine," Mr Humphreys said.

For a handful of ambulance officers, the dispute will soon be but a dim and distant memory. Next month, nine men and their families will pack their bags for a new life in Australia where they are to take up jobs with the Melbourne ambulance service.

Mr Howard Fletcher, aged 32, of Kingston, Surrey, said the industrial action was the last straw, a vindication of his decision to leave with his wife, Elaine, a nurse, aged 29, and his daughters, aged two and two months. He is one of 200 officers in London who are advanced trained with expertise, much of it gained in their own time, in intubation and infusion, the skill to insert a tube in the wind pipe and set up a drip, as well as defibrillation. "I love my job and would never want to leave it. But the situation in Britain is terrible. And it will get worse. I earn just over £10,000 a year. In a flat month without overtime I take home about £650. After overheads and mortgage we live on £30 a week, and that includes food and running the car. Men coming straight out of training school get the same." In Australia, he will be on a lower grade intially but with a higher salary and opportunities to progress in a proper career structure, something lacking in Britain.

Mr Fletcher, who has been based at Richmond, southwest London, for 10 years said: "There is no career structure. It is a struggle to get on to training courses and we don't get paid any more for doing that. Good men who want to advance are being held back.

"Morale is at rock bottom. Whether the service can recover from the present bloodletting, I don't know."

● Only a third of the signatures on the biggest petition ever presented to Parliament were allowed into the chamber of the Commons yesterday amid bitter Labour protests.

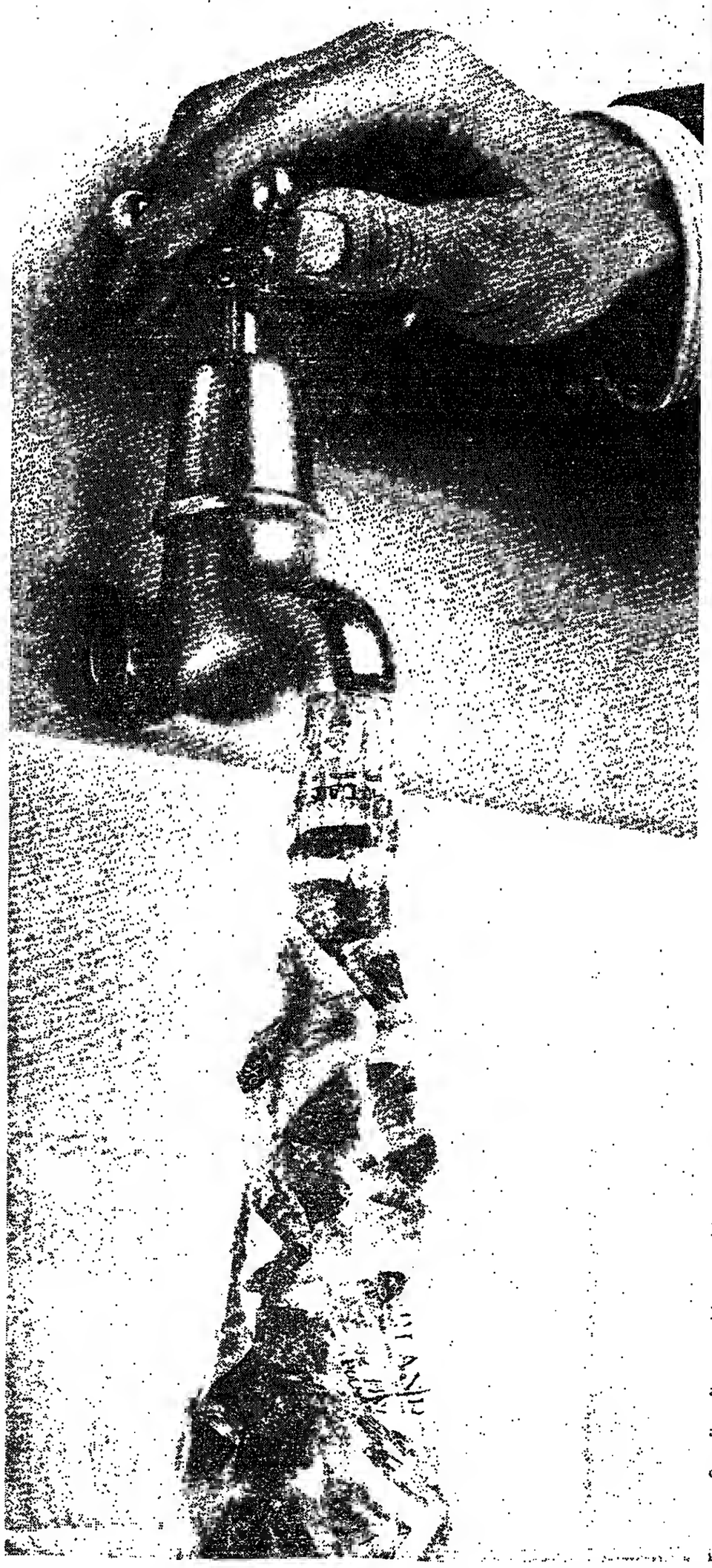
Mr Robin Cook, Labour's chief health spokesman, attempted to introduce the petition, signed by 4.5 million people, calling for the Government to agree to the ambulance dispute going to Acas, the arbitration service.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, ruled that only a representative sample should be brought into the House. He said the size of the petition, contained in more than 100 boxes, was "irrelevant" and it would be time consuming to admit all of it.

A police report is being prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service into an accident in south London on December 3 when a women was killed after her car was in collision with an army ambulance. Scotland Yard said yesterday that it could not confirm reports that the army driver would be prosecuted for reckless driving or that he had jumped a red light on a busy junction of the South Circular in Battersea.

TED BATH

Australia bound: Mr Howard Fletcher, his wife, Elaine, and daughters Ruth, left, and Rachel.



AT NATWEST YOU CAN TURN WATER INTO MONEY. INSTANTLY.

It's very simple really.

Just pop into NatWest, sell your water shares and come out with a cheque.

You don't even need an account with us.

However, not every water share-dealing service is so straightforward.

You'll probably be deluged with offers from others who want to sell your shares.

The problem is they might not be so quick when it comes to paying you. It could take weeks and play havoc with your cashflow.

But at NatWest we'll give water share owners the best prices and the least hassle.

Over 270 branches have been equipped with a touchscreen system that brings stock-market technology to your High Street.

From displaying current share prices to delivering your cheque, the touchscreen is instant.

All you need is some form of identification and your share certificate.

If you can't get to a branch with a touchscreen, all is not lost. You can arrange to sell at any NatWest bank and we'll put a cheque in the post for you.

So if you want to turn water shares into liquid assets go to NatWest.

NatWest Stockbrokers THE ACTION BANK

A list of all touchscreen branches is available at any NatWest. Proof of identity showing signature and address is required. NatWest Stockbrokers Limited Member of the International Stock Exchange. Member of TSA Garrard House, 31 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DX. National Westminster Bank PLC is a Member of IMRO Remember that the value of shares can go down as well as up

Dec 15 PARLIAMENT

Benn's defence of socialism quotes Old Testament

Mr Tony Benn rallied to the defence of socialism in a debate on a Conservative backbench motion on the collapse of communism and the future of socialism.

Socialism was not dead, he said. It emanated not from Brezhnev but from Genesis, when Cain had asked: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The people of eastern Europe were not yearning for capitalism and the policies of Conservative Britain.

Opening the debate, **Mr Neil Hamilton** (Tatton, C) said that it was the suppression of markets in the Soviet Union that had produced its poverty and tyranny. He recalled the anecdote about what would happen if the Soviet Union invaded the Sahara Desert: "Nothing, for 10 years, and then there would be a shortage of sand."

The scale of corruption in eastern Europe was being revealed. Decentralization of economic decision-taking reduced corruption and political power and, hence, reduced the chances of tyranny.

Mr Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) asked if Mr Hamilton really believed that what was happening in Warsaw was because the people there were longing for a poll tax, that in Uzbekhistan they were yearning to sell off their water, that there was a longing for a return of the Czar, that Romania demanded the Youth Training Scheme.

It was beyond belief that the people of Warsaw, East Germany and Hungary had only demanded human rights because Britain had had cruise missiles on hire purchase from Washington.

Socialism was to be found here in the national health hospitals every time someone received free treatment; in the schools when they got the education they needed without paying.

Many democratic rights had been taken away by this Government. The rights of trade unionists were less here than they were in East Europe.

Britain was now controlled from Brussels. Tory MPs were beginning to realize that Jacques Delors [President of the EC Commission] was not elected, but the British people had not elected President Bush or Vice-President Quayle either.

The Soviet Union did not want to go from the dictatorship of the proletariat to the Dow-Jones average; from Gosplan to the Bundesbank.

The people in the City of London were the bureaucrats of internationalism. They moved money about, closing factories. If factories were closed for a week by strike action that was disruption. If the City closed them forever that was called market forces.

Socialism was based on the belief that people had inherent rights, whether rich, poor, black or white. It meant a right to work and to have a lifelong education.

Progress came from below. He could not think of a single gain for human history that had come from this Chamber.

"For the first time there is enough for everyone in the world." There was enough to eat, enough to give everyone clean water and proper clinics.

But distribution of wealth could not come about by market forces or jungle philosophy. It could only come about by socialism, democracy and internationalism — loathed by the Tories to the essence of their being.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that socialism had never been tried and socialism and communism were by no means dead.

His criticism of the Labour leadership was that they did not need to give up their socialist aspirations and accept the mores of the Conservative Party. "We can win power on the basis of our own basic socialist concepts."

Mr Kenneth Baker, Chairman of the Conservative Party, said that it was not fair to say that the British Labour Party was automatically the same as the socialist parties of eastern Europe. But there was a common denominator.

"They all believe that the state knows best." It was not enough for government just to set the rules of the game and let society observe those rules. "They all believe that the state and the government should take a leading role in the game itself — in the economic life of the civil society."

The core of all socialist thought was that market forces did not work and that individual choice could not be relied on. The state, the government, had to intervene and to correct the inefficiencies and inequalities which emerged.

Nobody could pretend that socialism had been anything other than an unmitigated disaster for the countries of eastern Europe. Mr Gorbachov had been chosen in Russia because he represented a break with failed policies, because socialism had failed.

Socialism was still at the heart of the Labour Party. In spite of the repackaging and duplicity of the policy review it was the same party underneath.

Whether it was called market socialism, designer socialism, filofax socialism or cordless-telephone socialism, it was still the same.

Lech Walesa had told him that they wanted British, German and French companies to tell them how to run their industries. They wanted capitalists because they recognized that socialism had failed.

Mr Benn mocked the idea that East Europe seeks capitalism.

While the leaders of eastern Europe wanted shareholders, Labour threatened dividends. Poland and Hungary were talking of privatization, Labour wanted nationalization.

What kind of Opposition wanted to shackle markets when eastern Europe wanted to free them? There was no country in the world where socialism had worked.

Eastern Europe was on the move again and moving Britain's way. "In the dark years this Government has kept the torch of liberty burning bright. Eastern Europeans are emerging from the twilight. I am proud to belong to a party, Government and country that has been so steadfast in the defence of our freedoms."

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said that the traumatic events in eastern Europe had been used by the Tories for a trivial attack on Labour.

The people of eastern Europe were not turning their back on socialism, or social welfare and injustice. They wanted freedom and democracy. They were not calling for Thatcherism, which was one form of tyranny in exchange for another.

Petition on ambulance dispute

The largest petition of Parliament for 150 years was presented to the Commons. It was in support of the ambulance workers and carried 4.5 million signatures. Labour MPs protested, however, when the Speaker refused to allow all 100 boxes into the Chamber.

Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North, Lab) said that the television cameras should be able to let the electorate know what was going on.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) said that if four million people had signed petitions in Prague or Warsaw it would have been on television for a week.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that the bringing in of petitions was a symbolic procedure.

Tory MPs angry at pub plan

A group of Conservative MPs forced a division early on Friday morning against Government proposals to make brewers reduce the number of public houses they control. The proposals are based on recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Supply of Beer (Tied Estates) Order requires brewers with more than 2,000 licensed premises to dispose of the excess over 2,000 or to loosen ties to the brewery. It was carried by 54 votes to eight.

● **PUB TENANTS:** The Landlord and Tenant (Licensed Premises) Bill, to give public house tenants the same protection as that enjoyed by other business tenants, was read a second time on Thursday.

FINAL YEAR END

LIQUIDATION AUCTION

CLEARANCE OF ALL PIECES PERSIAN & EASTERN CARPETS

UNRESERVED DISPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE CASH USED IN SECURING LOAN, NOW IN DEFAULT, AND ORDERED TO BE LIQUIDATED.

TOMORROW at 3.30pm

VIEWING FROM 2.30pm

AT THE SALEROOM: A. WELLESLEY BRISCOE & PTNRS. LTD. SPECIALIST STOCK LIQUIDATORS, VALUERS AND ARBITRATORS ROXBY PLACE, FULHAM, LONDON SW6.

Tel. 01-381 8558 Fax 01-381 4262

Directions: Travelling West along Old Brompton Road, take first turning left after West Brompton tube station into Seagrave Road – take first left again into Roxby Place.

Terms: Cheque, cash and all major credit cards.

هكذا من الأصل

Chile celebrations overshadowed by spectre of Pinochet

Aylwin's victory a simple prelude to problems of ruling

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

After 16 years of military rule, under the unyielding leadership of General Augusto Pinochet, Chileans are still celebrating the election of Señor Patricio Aylwin to the presidency.

Preliminary official results gave Señor Aylwin 55.2 per cent of the popular vote, the highest margin by any Chilean president this century.

Señor Hernán Buchi, the former Finance Minister, polled 29.4 per cent and Señor Francisco Javier Errarurriz, the millionaire businessman, 15.3 per cent.

Señor Aylwin needed 51 per cent to avoid a second round run-off against Señor Buchi, the architect of the unfettered free market policies which won international praise for Chile but have failed to solve the country's serious social problems.

Thousands of people poured into the streets in celebration of the election results. Señor Aylwin, aged 71, told a huge crowd of supporters that what Chile now needed was mutual understanding to build a solid democracy.

"Once again, the people of Chile have taken their destiny in their own hands," the veteran politician said. "I want to be president of all Chileans, and for this I need the support of all."

The new president is to take office on March 11 for a four-year term. General Pinochet will step down on that day at the end of a process that began last year when he held a plebiscite.

While the election was relatively democratic, the 1980 Constitution defining how the new Congress must govern is not. Señor Aylwin may find that getting elected was easy compared to resolving issues postponed by the military government.

General Pinochet himself will carry on as Army Commander in Chief, as well as sitting on the powerful National Security Council, which oversees the actions of the civilian authorities.

Much of Señor Aylwin's ability to govern will depend on the support of the Senate and the House of Deputies, whose members were also elected on Thursday.

The new President heads a coalition of 17 political parties led by the Christian Democrats. He promised to confront critical social and economic problems which have plunged almost half the population — more than five million Chileans — into poverty. Health, housing and employment are key issues for Chileans.

Laws already enacted would seriously handicap the new government's ability to establish economic policy.

After it assumes power it will have to work with a national budget approved by General Pinochet and with municipalities headed by General Pinochet's appointees.

The privatization of the State Bank and the autonomy of the Central Bank, along with the Law of the Entrepreneurial State, will limit the Government's ability to influence monetary policy and investment.

Señor Buchi: Vote share was too small to force a run-off.

Bringing democracy to important institutions, such as the Senate, will require considerable negotiations if the new Government is to achieve the two-thirds and three-fifths majorities required for vital changes.

A law approved last week eliminated Congress's right to investigate corruption in the previous government.

Human rights will be one of the most complex issues for post-Pinochet Chile. Civilians and military officers alike agree on the need to bring both groups closer after years of the military authorities dividing their countrymen into "friends and enemies".

The relatives of Chile's 700 detained or missing, and of others who faced firing squads after the coup, and the victims of torture and violent crime, want those responsible tried in court.

The most delicate issue is that of Chile's estimated 400 political prisoners. Some are clearly "prisoners of conscience", but many are accused of armed resistance to the military regime. All, according to lawyers and human rights organizations, have been severely tortured and many of the cases are based oo confessions extracted using torture.

Their situation contrasts with those of military officers and organizations accused of grave human rights violations, granted amnesty by a 1978 law which the armed forces have united to defend.

Although the human rights situation has improved since General Pinochet lost a plebiscite to carry on in power, human rights organizations are concerned about the case of Hector Pacheco, who disappeared on November 15, after armed men arrested him in his home.

Supporters of Señor Patricio Aylwin celebrating his victory in Chile's presidential election, the first after 16 years of military rule.

Gap narrows in Brazil's leadership race

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

After a month-long campaign marked by personal insults, red-baiting, and broadsides against the "capitalist system", the two candidates in Brazil's first presidential election in nearly 30 years have retreated to their respective benches to await the verdict of the ballot box.

Tomorrow 82 million voters go to the polls to select a new President, the first Brazilian leader to be picked by direct vote since 1960.

The most recent opinion polls still gave Senhor Fernando Collor de Mello, the polished, boyish candidate from the centre-right National Reconstruction Party the advantage over his left-wing adversary, Senhor Luiz Ignácio "Lula" da Silva, of the Workers' Party.

However, after a series of thunderous rallies in public squares all over Brazil in recent days, the bearded and gruff-voiced socialist is now breathing down Senhor Collor's neck.

The Brazilian Gallup poll published yesterday showed the National Reconstruction Party candidate with 45.6 per cent of voter preference to Senhor da Silva's 43.8 per cent. Another survey gave Senhor Collor an even slimmer 46 to 45 per cent advantage.

By momentum alone, Senhor da Silva would appear poised to turn the tables. "One candidate (da Silva) soars while the other (Senhor Collor) tumbles," said Senhor Villas-Boas Corrêa, a respected political commentator.

However, a final face-to-face confrontation in a three-hour televised debate on Thursday night was widely interpreted as a stand-off.

Now, on the eve of the presidential race, pollsters and political analysts alike agree that tomorrow's vote is too close to call. In a country where the plodding ritual of consensus has always anchored the political process and where leaders have deliberately sought to steer away from ideology, this election stands out in marked contrast.

Senhor da Silva, who rose to politics through the militant trade-union movement, called this race from early on the "biggest confrontation between labour and capital" in Brazilian history.

He favours rigorous state control over the economy, punishing speculators, taxing the rich to aid the poor, and immediately suspending debt payments to private foreign banks.

He also advocates a sweeping land-reform programme that confiscates large properties — more than 2,500 acres in the north and 1,200 acres in the south — left idle by landowners.

Like Senhor da Silva, Senhor Collor also promises to crack down on financial speculators and tax dodgers.

However, by contrast, Senhor Collor, a former governor, calls for reducing the size of government, selling off state enterprises, and reinvigorating private investment.

Rather than a confrontation with creditors, he is expected to haggle, withdrawing federal guarantees on Brazil's $110 billion (£70 billion) debt and forcing each company or department with outstanding foreign loans to negotiate repayment on its own.

In the waning days of the campaign, the tone and content of both candidates speeches have hardened. Senhor Collor began the race seeking to emulate the grand gestures and measured positions of statesmen.

However, as Senhor da Silva rose in the polls, the front-runner discarded moderation and sought to brand the Workers' Party candidate as an incendiary Marxist bent on destroying the democratic system.

Senhor da Silva, for his part, labelled Senhor Collor the scion of the Brazilian dictatorship, with support from the "dominant classes". He called Senhor Collor's overtures to the working classes as the rumblings of "the fox in the chicken coop".

In an eleventh-hour campaign move that split his own aides, Senhor Collor broadcast in a televised campaign spot the bitter accusations of a one-time girlfriend of Senhor da Silva, who called him a racist who tried to force her into an abortion.

Senhor da Silva responded on his own television spot by appearing arm-in-arm with Lurian, his daughter by that union and an avid Workers' Party supporter. Those accusations appeared to have no effect on the voter surveys.

China turns a deaf ear to colony's pleas for democracy

From Joe Joseph, Hong Kong

Just hours after realizing that a revolt by Conservative backbenchers in Westminster was likely to shrivel the number of Hong Kong people given the right to resettle in Britain, residents of the British colony discovered yesterday that their pleas for wide-ranging political democracy after 1997 had also fallen on deaf ears in Peking.

Chinese officials said in a key policy-drafting meeting with Hong Kong officials in Canton that only 30 per cent of Hong Kong's post-1997 legislature would be directly elected. This falls far short of the 40-50 per cent demanded by Hong Kong and will result in the territory being given only 18 seats in a 60-seat legislature.

The news from Canton compounded fears that have been simmering in the colony about its future after the handover to China in 1997.

The prospect of limited political representations, coupled with the growing likelihood that fewer families than expected will be allowed into Britain, is bound to accelerate the already damaging brain drain from the colony.

The backbench revolt in London has also fanned fears, which conspiracy theorists have been peddling in Hong Kong, that Mrs Thatcher's policy of forced repatriation for the Vietnamese boat people was a dastardly Foreign Office ploy. The idea, according to the theory, is to shrink international goodwill towards Hong Kong just when the colony's residents are seeking outside support for their claim to passports as a post-1997 insurance policy.

The colony has been only too aware in recent days that Americans and others might wonder why they should take pity on people who have blithely shipped Vietnamese refugees back to Hanoi against their will.

Yesterday Mrs Rosanna Tam and Mrs Selina Chow, convenors of a legislative working group on nationality, said in a joint statement that they were "most concerned by the increasingly negative views being expressed in Westminster".

They added: "There is oo question of large numbers of Hong Kong people wishing to emigrate to the United Kingdom. If the assurances granted are effective .... there will be no need for Hong Kong people to leave the territory in search of second passports.

"Those in London who are arguing that any measures taken to restore British citizenship to British subjects in Hong Kong would result in mass emigration to the UK are misleading the British public, they are confusing the objective of restoring confidence in Hong Kong, and they are doing a considerable disservice to the Hong Kong people. "Hong Kong people have no representation in Parliament and no participation in the decisions made to determine their future. They rely on Britain to provide them with protection and security for the future."

Peking — China devalued its currency today for the first time since 1986, lowering the exchange rate by 21.2 per cent — from 3.7128 yuan to the dollar to 4.7103 yuan — in an effort to boost exports (Catherine Sampson writes). Analysts say it is a sign of anxiety about foreign debt repayments due next year.

The Reverend Lung Kwong Lo, a Methodist minister who has collected 850,000 signatures for the "Hong Kong people saving Hong Kong" campaign he started after the Tiananmen Square massacre, said last night that the Tory backbenchers were "not showing proper moral responsibility to Hong Kong".

"They don't seem to understand the issues. They keep talking of people in Hong Kong flooding to the UK, which seems to show a sort of racial prejudice towards Hong Kong people. The real issue is whether the British Government can maintain the stability of Hong Kong until 1997. If the colony remains stable there will be a smooth transition.

"There is no reason for us to leave this territory unless there is a very dangerous situation. That is why we need to keep Hong Kong prosperous and stable. This is a matter of honour for Britain and the British people.

"If they don't give passports to anybody, then most of the people who can move out of this territory will move out — that is, those with talent, money or professional skills — and the territory will collapse. If 500,000 top people leave, the territory will collapse."

Mr Lung is not alone in his arithmetic.

"Honour Hong Kong", a group which speaks for the colony's most prosperous companies, reckons that 315,000 key technicians, managers and administrators are crucial to Hong Kong's economic well-being. If they leave in a panic over fears for their own or the colony's prospects, the territory could become a shambles, the group says.

The chances of many of those 315,000 being given a passport-cum-insurance policy now look increasingly slim.

Authorities in Hong Kong yesterday denied that three Vietnamese refugees who apparently attempted suicide were afraid of being sent back to Hanoi. They said that only the case of a Vietnamese woman who swallowed some Chinese medicinal oil could possibly be related to such stress, although no link has been found.

Officials remained on the alert as thousands of boat people marched and chanted in their camps across Hong Kong for the third day.

More than 8,000 Vietnamese waved banners and yelled for an end to forced repatriation. At the Samshuipo detention centre, protesters burned an effigy of Mrs Thatcher. The demonstrations were peaceful, but despair in the camp was evident.

Sir David Wilson, the governor of Hong Kong, has confirmed that no more Vietnamese will be sent back forcibly before Christmas.

11 blacks cleared of treason charges

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

The convictions and sentences against 11 black activists in South Africa's longest and most expensive treason trial were quashed yesterday in a dramatic judgment by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Bloemfontein.

Within minutes of the verdict a defence lawyer was on his way to Robben Island, South Africa's maximum security prison off Cape Town, to secure the release of five of the 11 activists.

The other six were given suspended sentences. Relatives had already gathered at the dockside in Cape Town in anticipation of the judgement.

The five who stepped to freedom were Patrick "Terror" Lekota, publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front, who was jailed for 12 years, Popo Molefe, the UDF general secretary who was jailed for 10 years, and Moses Chikane, a former UDF executive member, Tom Manthata, a field worker with the South African Council of Churches, and Gcinu Malindi, a member of the UDF-affiliated Vaal Civic Association, who received sentences of between 10 and five years.

They were convicted last December at the end of the so-called Delmas trial, a three-year duel between state and defence lawyers.

The trial took its name from the small eastern Transvaal town about 60 miles from Johannesburg where most of the hearings were held.

The court record of the marathon trial totalled more than 25,000 pages of typed evidence.

Yesterday the Chief Justice of South Africa, Mr Justice Michael Corbett, and four other judges upheld the appeal that the dismissal by the trial judge, Mr Justice Kees van Dijkhorst, of one of his two assessors was unlawful and unfair.

Judge van Dijkhorst had ruled that because Professor Willem Joubert had signed a UDF "million signature" campaign protesting against the tricameral parliamentary system he was not in a position to fulfil his role impartially.

The judge continued to hear the trial with one assessor. Mr W.F. Krugel, who was a member of the secret Afrikaner Broederbond.

Hong Kong war widows fight for right to live in Britain

From Jonathan Brande
Hong Kong

Forty-five years after her husband was tortured to death by the Japanese in Hong Kong, Mrs Doris Kotwall is still waiting for Britain to honour her for his heroism in fighting behind enemy lines for the British Army.

But, like about 30 other war widows still living in Hong Kong, Mrs Kotwall, aged 73, does not even qualify for a British passport.

Along with 3.7 million Hong Kong British citizens, she hopes Britain will be generous in granting full right of abode.

Jimmy Kotwall was born of a Parsee father and a Chinese mother. His final message written to his wife and children on August 31, 1944, as he was about to be sentenced to death, spelt out where his allegiances lay.

He wrote: "I die with love in my heart for my family, my country."

Despite her age, Mrs Kotwall feels a passport would transform her life. She said that because of the handover to China, her children would leave Hong Kong. She wants to be able to join them on the strength of a British passport.

But Britain has left more recent war widows in the territory. Eight Hong Kong Chinese died in the Falklands War and one, Chiu Yim-Nam, was awarded the George Medal for heroism. Ng Po-Chun, a laundryman, may not have been a hero, but he too died in a British war when the Atlantic Conveyor was sunk by an Argentine missile. Mrs Hui Chai-On, his widow, received enough compensation to ensure she had a roof over her head. But she has no right to live in the country her husband died for.

Mr Jack Edwards, a veteran campaigner on war widows' rights, who put their case to the Prince of Wales on his visit to Hong Kong last month, said: "I hope these women can at last get their rights. It has been too many years, and they deserve better from Britain." Other Hong Kong people have taken to finding an alternative for their children if they do not qualify for any other nationality themselves. An increasing number of Hong Kong women are having babies in countries such as Canada or the United States — simply because any child born in those countries becomes a citizen.

Mrs Cindy Pang, aged 34, who twice spent more than £2,000 to have a child in Canada, sees it as the first step towards emigration — a move she says she would never have made but for the 1984 agreement to hand the colony to China.

Hong Kong's ethnic minorities are worst affected by the 1997 deadline. Under the terms of the joint declaration, Britain's 1984 agreement with China, all Hong Kong Chinese will be regarded as Chinese nationals. But many Indians and other groups will effectively become stateless.

Mr Hari Harilela, a leader of the Indian community, qualifies only for a Hong Kong British passport, a document which gives him no more right to live in Britain than to live in India, where his forebears came from.

His father came to Hong Kong in 1922 "from a British colony, to a British colony, with a British passport". Mr Harilela and his brothers are wealthy enough to find alternative homes elsewhere. He has been offered permanent residence in Canada and Singapore. But for the people he represents that choice may not be open.

He has proposed to Britain that members of the Indian minority should, after careful screening, be awarded a special passport giving them the right of residence but no entitlement to welfare or social services benefits which other British citizens regard as a right.

He reasons that Hong Kong businessmen and traders would be able to generate their own livelihoods without burdening the state or taking jobs away from the community.

Exit Denard, pathetic old man, and his cowed dogs of war

He came in with a roar and left with scarcely a whimper. A decade after storming into the Comoros with a force of mercenaries, guns blazing, "Colonel" Bob Denard was unceremoniously bundled out of the island yesterday in the cavernous hold of a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

After years as the ruthless *eminence grise* in the regime of President Abdallah — whom he installed in 1978 and whose rule ended last month with his death — the proud veteran of African civil wars, was finally reduced to a bitter, pathetic old man with a bleak future.

The end came suddenly at dawn when officers from a French naval task force, by prior arrangement with the mercenaries, landed by helicopter at the airport on the east coast of the main island.

By the time paratroops from the warships cruising offshore arrived, M Denard and his men were waiting with about 300 Comorian soldiers of the Presidential Guard whom they once commanded.

Drawn up in ranks, parade-ground fashion, the guard presented arms as the chief of the French military mission in the Comoros approached with a dozen paratroops. M Denard, standing alone in a light safari suit before his men, exchanged a few words with the French colonel before stepping aside. There were no salutes, no handshakes, merely resigned acceptance that his last command was over.

Exposed as a hired killer who became a tinpot dictator

The mercenary officers in green berets marched off and were replaced by the French paratroops who ordered the GP to fall out. M Denard, denied his last request for full military honours, drove sullenly back to his barracks to collect his personal belongings.

Two hours later he returned with his 21 remaining mercenaries to board the South African charter flight to Johannesburg, where they were expected to transfer to a scheduled flight to Paris. "They will be in transit with a capital T," a South African official said.

As impassive French soldiers and a crowd of journalists looked on, the mercenaries swaggered up to the tailgate of the huge aircraft with their leader, but it was the superficial bluster of a retreating army. M Denard sat alone, hunched in a seat by the front emergency exit.

Reporters who swarmed into the cargo hold were treated to his departing comments: "How do you think I feel? Like dancing? No, it's not a defeat, but it's not glory either. The important thing is that no blood was shed. Now get out, I want to sleep a little."

It was hardly a Napoleonic farewell, but then M Denard has never been noted for his eloquence. Adored by his dogs of war, but ultimately despised by the Comorian people, the severe figure with greying blond hair held sway in the picturesque but impoverished islands by force of arms, rather than dialogue. Compassion for M Denard in his humiliation would be misplaced. Stripped of his last vestiges of power, he was exposed as what his victims have always claimed him to be — a hired killer who became a tinpot dictator. If his men, self-styled "the Frighteners", were allowed to leave in reasonable order with a trace of arrogance, the popular sentiment is that it was better than they deserved.

That they were also permitted to board the aircraft wearing uniforms and side-arms angered South African government officials, who had asked French officers to confiscate the weapons.

Mr Marco Boni, the South African diplomatic negotiator, said the pistols were later collected by members of the crew shortly after takeoff, and that the mercenaries had been ordered to remove their uniforms. As the Hercules banked low over the Indian Ocean and flew southwards, only a few members of the guard, wandering aimlessly on the tarmac, waved goodbye.

In Moroni, the dilapidated Afro-Arab capital a few miles away, the atmosphere was one of relief more than elation, with groups of men standing around quietly debating the future. Mr Ali Mahmoud, a teacher, summed up the general feeling: "He killed our President and terrorized our people. The only thing he developed here was the graveyard. I say good riddance to him and his kind."

The only thing he developed here was the graveyard

With French forces now in effective control of the archipelago in the Mozambique channel, local politicians are preparing to organize a presidential election and to form an interim government of national unity.

Neither will be an easy task, given the factional and opportunist nature of Comorian politics. At least they will be free to decide their destiny without the dark shadow of M Denard and his hit-men looming over them.

It is said that Clint Eastwood, the American actor, bought the rights to M Denard's life story after the 1978 coup d'état. Perhaps it is just as well the film never materialized.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Yugoslavs ready to embrace democracy 'to save socialism'

Belgrade (AP) – Yugoslavia will introduce a multi-party system with free elections and seek full membership in Western economic groupings, including the European Community, according to a draft Communist Party declaration published yesterday.

The landmark document, prepared for adoption at next month's party congress and published by the *Borba* daily, appears to be Yugoslavia's reply to the wave of democratic reforms currently sweeping East Europe.

"The Communist Party of Yugoslavia supports freedom of assembly and speech, and all other civil liberties, regardless of political convictions of individuals," said the document released by a congressional preparatory committee.

Political "associations, movements or parties will depend on the will of the citizens whose freedom of choice must be guaranteed by the Constitution," the declaration stated. It said that the Communist Party would no longer retain its monopoly on power and would participate along with other parties in free, direct and secret elections.

"We are changing all of this now in order that tomorrow it will not be too late for socialism in Yugoslavia," the document stated, adding that the reforms should be implemented within six months of the congress.

Until now, the Communist leadership of Yugoslavia's largest republic, Serbia, has been the staunchest opponent of Western-style democracy. But at its congress yesterday Serbia's Communist Party appeared to have softened its hardline stance.

Communists and Serbian authorities "have no reason or wish to impede administratively the establishment of (independent) political parties" in the republic, said Mr Bogdan Trifunovic, the region's party chief, in a keynote address.

Croatia, the second largest republic, and the liberal northern state of Slovenia have already endorsed parliamentary democracy and are both scheduled to hold free legislative elections next spring.

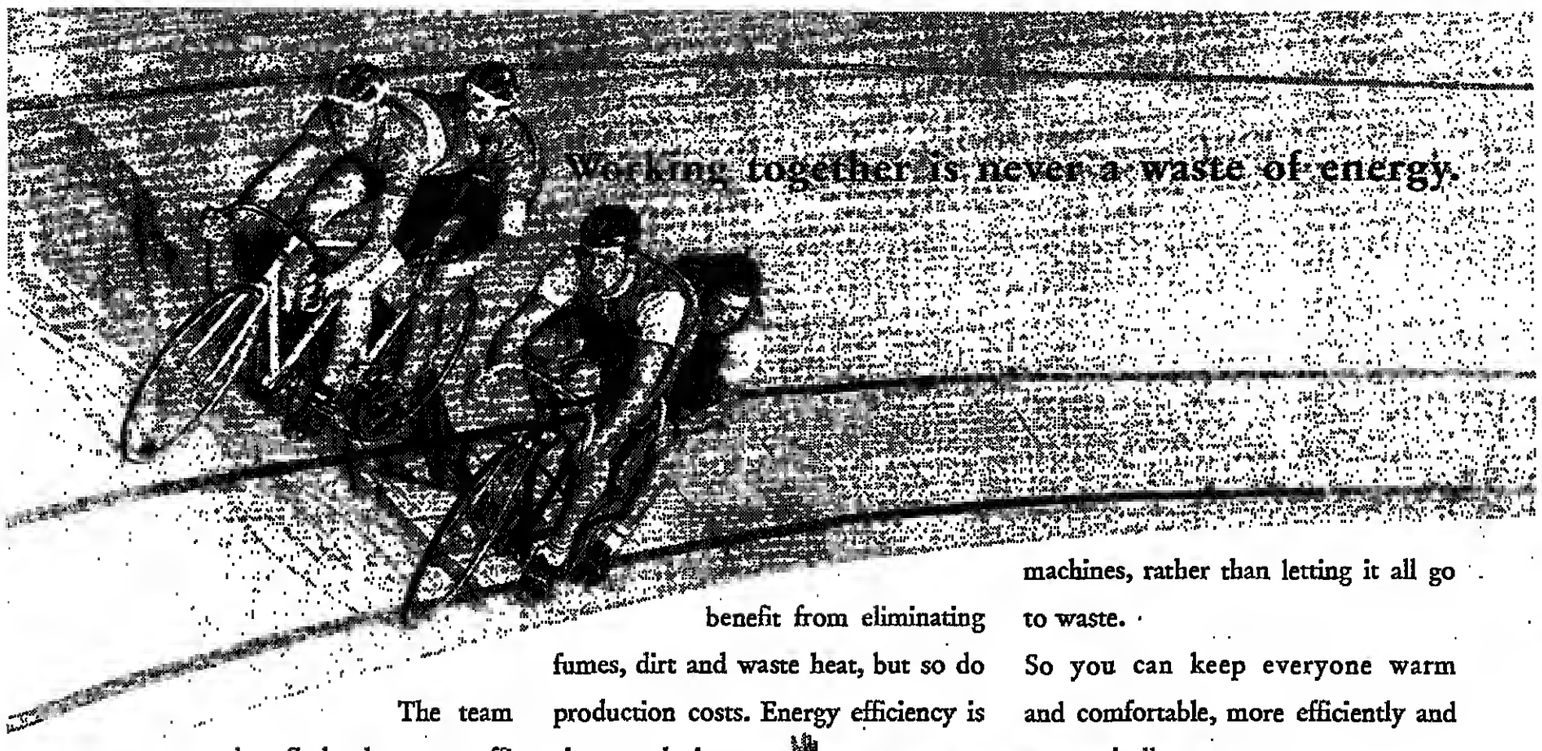
Many independent movements and parties have been formed in Croatia and Slovenia over the past year. In spite of the authorities, several opposition groups have also sprung up in Serbia, Bosnia, Macedonia and Montenegro, where Communists have in the past tried to sidestep the issue of democratic reforms.

The draft declaration also said that Yugoslavia would seek "full participation in integration processes in Europe, and membership in the European Community, the Council of Europe, the European Free Trade Association (Efta) and other similar organizations and institutions".

The document also called for a market economy, respect for human rights and an independent judiciary.

Wave of discontent wins Bulgarian reforms

Sofia lawyers holding their own protest yesterday while in other parts of the Bulgarian capital thousands turned out again to underline the fact that opposition to the Communist Government was gaining momentum. For the second day, protesters gathered outside the parliamentary buildings to press for the party and the Government to resign to clear the way for free and democratic elections (Ernest Beck writes). Faced with growing pressure for swift reform, the Communist Party sought to defuse tension by making concessions to several opposition demands, including the creation of an independent commission to examine widespread charges of corruption by Communist Party officials. Parliament also declared an amnesty for people convicted of "crimes against the state" and removed the offences from the criminal code. The moves are seen as damage control as noisy demonstrations continue and the party, under Mr Petar Mladenov, tries to quell a rising tide of discontent on Bulgaria's streets. Initial reaction to Thursday's mass rally had been to denounce it as the work of "irresponsible and extremist forces".



The team that finds the most efficient way of harnessing its individual energies always finds its way to the winners' rostrum.

That's why you should be teaming up with your local Electricity business. Electricity can provide a unique range of techniques to satisfy your energy requirements. Together we can work out the most energy efficient solutions for your business, helping you on the way to success.

HELPING BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

There have always been important links between electricity, energy conservation and the environment. But how can businesses profit as a result?

Take the metals industries, for example, where efficient electric melting and heating techniques are replacing traditional combustion processes.

Not only does the environment benefit from eliminating fumes, dirt and waste heat, but so do production costs. Energy efficiency is also greatly improved, because of the speed, greater control and the flexibility of electric techniques.

This in turn improves product quality, lowers rejects, and cuts unit costs.

And while electric techniques for effluent treatment are improving the environment and helping to prevent pollution, they can be recovering precious metals, reducing costs and making substantial energy savings in the process.

Finding the right partner is the first step on the road to success.

Combining individual strengths always makes for a winning team.

MAKING BETTER USE OF WHAT WE'VE GOT

Electricity offers enormous benefits for your working environment. Our highly insulated EED (Energy Efficient Design) buildings, for instance, make use of the free heat provided by your staff and office machines, rather than letting it all go to waste.

So you can keep everyone warm and comfortable, more efficiently and economically.

Electric heat pumps are yet another sound business proposition. These extract valuable warmth from the outside air, or even gather waste heat from manufacturing processes, and use it where it's needed most.

In hot conditions many heat pumps can even go into reverse, enabling oppressive heat to be replaced by cool, dehumidified air.

BECOMING MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

These are just a few examples of how a more energy efficient outlook could help your business.

For more information send in the coupon below, or contact the Energy Marketing Manager at your local Electricity business, and we can start working together.

To Electricity Publications, PO Box 2, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0TG.
Please send me information on the efficient use of electricity for:
☐ manufacturing processes ☐ environmental control
Name _____ Position _____
Company _____
Address _____
Post Code _____ Tel. _____

PLANELECTRIC
LET'S WORK TOGETHER CT38

Albanian leader rules out change

Vienna (Reuter) – Mr Ramiz Alia, the Albanian leader, has rejected the reformist revolution sweeping Eastern Europe, arguing that there is nothing wrong with socialism, only with the countries that had adopted it.

He told trade union leaders in Tirana, the Albanian capital, earlier this week that the reforms in the Soviet bloc were being dictated by international capitalism for its own ends, the official ATA news agency reported.

"There are foreigners who ask: 'Will Albania experience such processes as those occurring in East Europe?' We answer in a clear-cut and categorical way: No," he said.

Albania has gone its own ultra-orthodox way since breaking first with Moscow and then with China.

Mr Alia said its development had been quite different from other Eastern bloc countries.

"The crisis that has swept over the East is a crisis of a set community. It is a crisis of what is called the 'socialist community' but not of socialism as theory and practice," Mr Alia was quoted as saying.

"Consequently, the events occurring there do not concern us."

He said the capitalist road being taken by other states was unacceptable to Albania, since this led to exploitation and oppression.

He called the huge foreign debts of communist and Third World countries "chains for the freedom of the people, exploitation of their sweat and toil, a source of enrichment for the rich".

"Capitalism gives nothing without interest. A testimony to this are the events in East Europe.

"It is dictating what should be done, how the economy should be reformed, so as to open up the road to private property and foreign capital, how should power be handed to anti-communist forces.

"We Albanians are not rich, but we are free and independent," Mr Alia said.

● **PRAGUE:** Czechoslovakia will dismantle its Iron Curtain border with West Germany, shorten military service and end Communist Party influence over the Army, its new Defence Minister said yesterday.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Greek weapons scandal reopened

Athens – The Council of Greek Appeal Judges yesterday ordered the reopening of an investigation into "the scandal of the century" – the purchase of over-priced military aircraft and missiles by the former Socialist Government of Mr Andreas Papandreou (Mario Modiano writes).

Parliament ruled last July that there was not enough evidence to prosecute the former Prime Minister. Members were told that Greece had bought the weapons at between £250 million and £750 million above market prices. That decision was authoritatively attributed to pressure by the governments of supplier countries reluctant to have another arms bribery case publicly investigated.

Gun-runner aged 12

Rome – Police in Italy usually stop young people on mopeds to make sure that they are 14 and old enough to drive. But when they stopped a 12-year-old in Calabria on Wednesday night, they found that under the moped's seat was a sub-machine-gun with a half-full magazine and a cartridge in the breech (Paul Bompard writes). Not taken aback in the least, the child gun-runner warned the police: "Be careful how you behave. I am not punishable and can go around in a tank if I like." Under Italian law a 12-year-old cannot be prosecuted, and all the police could do was confiscate the dangerous toy and deliver the child to his parents. The police suspect that he was being used as an "invulnerable" gun runner by a kidnap gang.

India delays pull-out

Delhi – India's new Government has laid down precise conditions which must be met before it will withdraw all of an estimated 30,000 troops still in Sri Lanka (Christopher Thomas writes). The statement by Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, amounts to a declaration that the Government has no intention of trying to meet a pull-out deadline of December 31.

● **Colombo:** Members of the militant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are reported to be in control of Batticaloa town in eastern Sri Lanka, after they routed the rival Tamil National Army (A Correspondent writes).

Singer in drugs trial

Kingston (Reuter) – The Jamaican actress and singer Grace Jones pleaded not guilty to cocaine possession on Thursday as her long-delayed trial began in a crowded court. The Government's first witness, Detective Leroy Hanson, testified that Miss Jones repeatedly insisted: "I don't do drugs", during a raid on a house where she and her boyfriend were staying. Mr Hanson said cocaine was found in her handbag. But blood and urine tests had detected no sign of illegal drugs. The defence contended that drugs had been planted on Miss Jones, but did not elaborate.

Ferry crash fatality

Hong Kong (AP) – One person died and 13 were injured here yesterday when a jetfoil smashed into a pier after hitting several fishing boats. The accident occurred when the ferry was returning empty to dock in Hong Kong harbour after a trip to neighbouring Macao. The ferry hit the pier with such force that its bow ran ashore, police said. The injured were taken to hospital but their condition was not known, and details about the fatality were not disclosed.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Sakharov - a visionary whose dream came true

By Geoffrey Hosking

Three years ago, Andrei Sakharov returned to Moscow from the provincial town of Gorky, where he had been exiled for denouncing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. I felt, as did many people, that the world had become a safer place with his return home.

That was a measure of the stature the man had attained in the eyes of public opinion the world over. He had become a symbol of the will to human freedom and international peace, the more remarkable for having emerged from the midst of one of the world's two great military arsenals.

However his sudden exposure, as a young nuclear physicist, to a milieu of exclusive privilege and power taught him things he had never known as a boffin. He saw that the weapon of mass destruction he had created was in the hands of "people who, though talented in their own way, were cynical".

He wrote to Khrushchev several times pleading for the abandonment of atmospheric nuclear tests the effects of which, as he said, were insufficiently investigated and probably highly malignant. He was not quite as helpless as he felt. His efforts contributed to the signing of a Test Ban Treaty in 1963, the first international agreement regulating the use of nuclear weapons. But he had already drawn the lesson that governments cannot be trusted, that countervailing powers are needed to publicize what they are doing.

Hence his belief, which he subsequently preached, that international peace is impossible without political democracy and freedom of speech.

Sakharov became the heart and soul of the Soviet human rights movement. His powerful intellect, his knowledge of the higher echelons of society, and above all his burning moral conviction sustained the movement through long dark years when it seemed utterly fruitless to hope that any serious change might result from professing a credo so alien to the Soviet milieu.

Nor did he confine his activity to writing petitions. He would go to the courtrooms where fellow citizens were being tried for "anti-Soviet agitation" or "defaming the Soviet political and social system". If, as was usually the case, he was debarred from entry, he would stand outside, a silent witness to the concern for freedom.

Eventually the authorities lost patience and exiled him to Gorky where they kept him under house arrest and cut off his contacts. Even from there, his wife and companion of the hopeless years, Yelena Bonner, managed to smuggle out a few statements.

His return to Moscow in 1986 marked the moment when *glasnost* became serious. There was no way of stopping Sakharov from declaring his opinions in forthright terms, but those opininns were broadly in line with what President Gorbachov himself was now trying to achieve — a relaxation of international tension and the democratization of Soviet society.

As long ago as 1970, Sakharov and two colleagues had sent a memorandum to Brezhnev warning that the Soviet Union was failing to keep pace with the modern world, and that the only way to make up the growing gap with the West was to democratize the political system, permitting the free flow of information and allowing voters to choose between politicians of different views. Brezhnev had ignored the advice, but Mr Gorbachov, whether or not he ever saw the memorandum, was now starting to follow it.

This did not mean that relations between Sakharov and Mr Gorbachov were always harmonious. While Mr Gorbachov was the practical statesman, cajoling amd manoeuvring to push parts of his programme through, Sakharov remained the tireless idealist, constantly reminding him of the ultimate vision. Some found his criticism excessive, but he had to combine the difficult roles of prophet and leader of an opposition as yet unformed.

Elected early this year to the newly established Congress of People's Deputies, he fought vigorously for its status, arguing that it should be not be just an electoral ante-chamber for the smaller Supreme Soviet but, as a body directly chosen by the people, should itself become the sovereign legislative assembly — in effect like the French National Assembly of 1789. His last political act, only two days before his death, was to urge the Assembly to discuss ending the political monopoly of the Communist Party.

Sakharov was reticent and self-effacing. He often looked as if he would be happier in his study writing a treatise than standing at the tribune. But the very hesitancy of his oratory was effective: it bespoke a man who addressed the public only because "he could do no other".

Sakharov died a month after the breaching of the Berlin Wall, just when his vision, so long pursued in apparent defiance of reality, seemed nearer to realization than ever before. Perhaps he would not have seen it that way, since so much remains to be done in his own country.

But has any human being ever brought such an apparently hopeless cause so close to fulfilment? Sakharov was one of the great figures of the 20th century and one of the few whose legacy is wholly beneficial.

Geoffrey Hosking's "The Awakening of the Soviet Union", a revised version of his 1988 Reith Lectures, will be published by Heinemann in January.

Obituary, page 12

Mrs Thatcher and President Bush praised Dr Sakharov in messages of condolence to his widow. Mrs Thatcher said his death had left a great vacuum, and President Bush spoke of his devotion to freedom.

Tears for the man everyone knew

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Several hours after news of Dr Sakharov's death had started to circulate, 20 or 30 people stood quietly outside the Sakharovs' mansion block on Ulitsa Chkalova on the Moscow ring road. Some were crying openly, others dabbing their eyes, yet others exchanging reminiscences about the man they knew less as a political figure than as an unassuming neighbour.

They were the latest in a constant stream of people who from *early morning had braved 10 degrees of frost and driving snow* to pay their respects to Andrei Sakharov's memory at the place where he had lived — with the exception of six years in exile — for more than two decades.

All were bundled up against the cold. Their conversation was subdued.

A small group of men busied themselves with arranging a small shrine beside the entrance to the block. A recent photograph of Dr Sakharov, meditative head in hands, was pinned to the wall. Beneath it was a makeshift table with candles. A fur-clad family — parents and two small daughters — emerged from the doorway and placed two bunches of red carnations, one on the table, the other on a hook under the photograph. The pile of carnations grew steadily, as more friends and admirers added their own tributes.

Passers-by appeared shocked. Some of the men doffed their fur hats as a mark of respect. *On an ordinary Moscow street not* one person asked who Sakharov was. They all knew.

Most comments related to the Sakharovs and their lifestyle. "They lived so modestly, so unostentatiously," one woman said through tears. "He went everywhere on his own two feet. He did not have official cars taking and fetching him. He lived like everyone else. You used to see him most mornings at the baker's getting the bread, he would walk along by himself just carrying his purse. It is a tragedy that he is gone."

Neo-Nazis gain ground in East German cities

From Ian Murray, Bonn

The radical right is gaining support in East Germany, according to a survey by the Informationsbüro West, an independent agency which monitors the East German media. In a report yesterday it said that a study of articles, letters and news items in the many regional newspapers confirmed the growth of neo-Nazi groups.

According to Herr Stephan Roahl, spokesman of the East German Office for National Security — which has superceded the hated state security service (Stasi) — there were only 44 prosecutions brought against fascist activities in the whole of last year compared with 144 this year to the middle of last month. Recently, he said, eight members of a group calling itself the SS Secret Organization had been arrested.

The secretary of a Jewish organization in Erfurt — whose parents died in Auschwitz — reported receiving anonymous telephone calls daily from a man who said: "The ovens of Buchenwald are waiting for you again."

Another article claims that anti-Semitism has led to tombstones in Jewish cemeteries all over the country being defaced. A Berlin school reported finding leaflets on class benches calling for "gas chambers for special groups of people".

Other leaflets signed by the West German radical right Republican Party have been widely distributed. They argue that there will only be a true free vote in East Germany if the Republican Party is allowed to put up candidates. The Republicans, who first won seats last January in the West Berlin city elections, have said their main political aim is the reunification of Germany as a neutral state, with Berlin as its capital.

There was open support for the Republicans in Leipzig at last Monday's regular weekly demonstration. West German television carried a series of interviews with young people, all saying that they supported reunification in the way the party wanted it and said they would vote Republican if given the chance.

The East German National Democratic Party (NDPD), one of the four non-communist recognized political organizations, is also alarmed that its name is now being used by neo-Nazi groups. It recently published a disclaimer in the Leipzig press, asking people not to confuse it with fascists who were using the NDPD initials.

Fascism is contrary to the constitutions of both Germanies, but the Republicans are not so far considered to be beyond the law in the Federal Republic, although they have all along been branded as neo-Nazis in the East.

The authorities there are now blaming at least some of the problem on the open border, claiming that Republican propaganda and ideas are being smuggled in across the frontier. The study suggests that there is at least a rump of support for their programme and for even more radical right-wing views.

● Police vigilance: With revenge attacks on party members, the police and former state security workers threatening to bring East Germany to the brink of anarchy, the Ministry of the Interior has ordered the police force to step np its vigilance (Anne McElvoy writes).

In the past week violence against officials has increased at an alarming rate, a Ministry spokesman said.

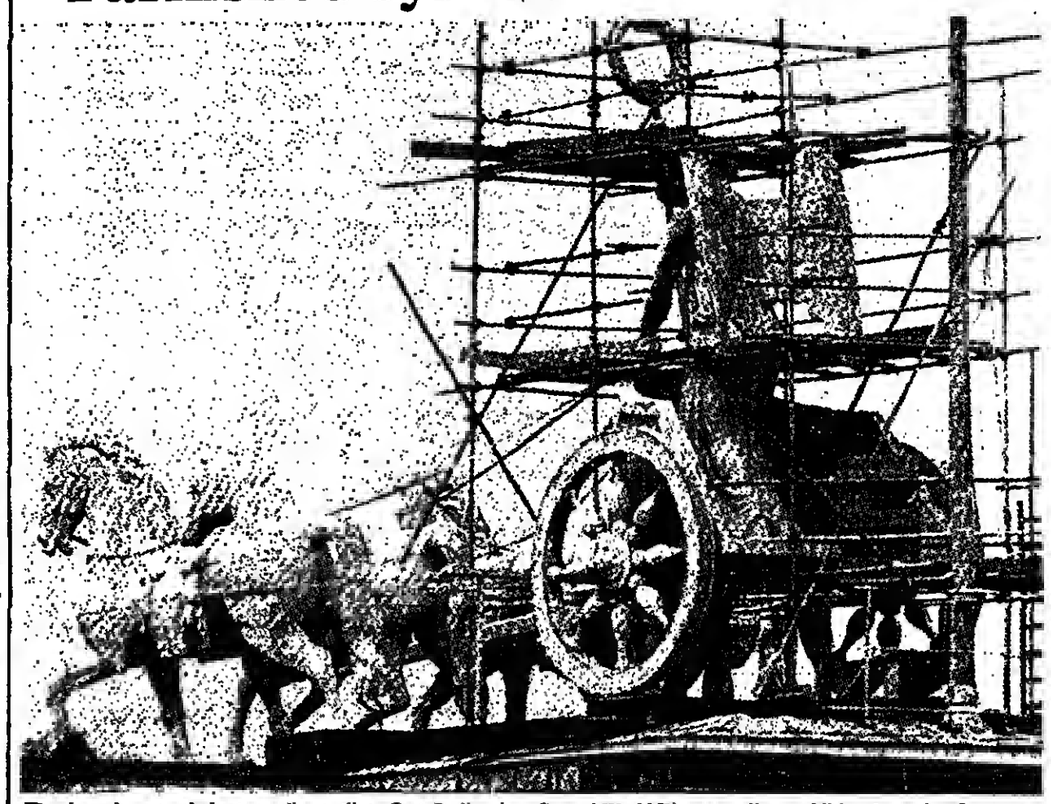
However, fearing that the campaign of mob justice could soon turn into violent conflict, the Government announced yesterday that the Workers' Militia, the "armed organs of the working class", in reality a paramilitary group of some 400,000 under the auspices of the communist Socialist Unity Party, would be dissolved immediately.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry said all members would have to give up weapons. Communist party functionaries also issued with firearms have already been made to surrender these.

Now that the Office of National Security, formerly the Ministry of State Security, has been dissolved, some 20,000 former employees are, having to look for work elsewhere. But they are finding themselves unwelcome even in the country's understaffed factories.

The East German newspaper, *Berliner Zeitung*, reported yesterday that three large factories in East Berlin and Potsdam had received anonymous calls and letters ordering the management not to employ former communist functionaries or state security employees, and threatening violence if this was not heeded.

Tarnished symbol to be restored



The legendary symbol atop the Brandenburg Gate between East and West Berlin, a bronze of Nike, the Goddess of Victory, in her quadriga — a chariot drawo by four horses abreast — being prepared for dismantling. East Berlin city engineers had intended to repair the 20ft high statue in position on the 80ft high neo-classical arch and reinstate an Iron Cross and an eagle removed at the end of the Second World War, according to *Neues Deutschland*, the communist party daily (Reuter reports from East Berlin). But inspections showed the internal metal skeleton of the structure was badly rusted and additional strain from the eagle and cross could have caused it to collapse. Now engineers will lift the goddess and her chariot to the ground next month for extensive restoration work.

Nato aims for role in reshaping Europe

From Michael Binyon and Frederick Bonnart, Brussels

Nato foreign ministers yesterday resolved to strengthen the alliance's political role, using it to design a "new architecture for Europe, whole and free".

Ending a two-day council that was dominated by the changes in Eastern Europe, they declared that Nato's main task was to pursue political change within stability, and make intensified efforts to overcome the division of Europe.

Skirting gingerly round the delicate issue of German reunification, they adopted a formula, almost identical to that laboriously agreed by the European Community summit in Strasbourg, which called for the "strengthening of the state of peace in Europe in which the German people will regain its unity through free self-determination".

This declaration was then followed by a series of conditions, insisting the process should be peaceful and democratic and setting it firmly in the context of all relevant agreements and treaties, the Helsinki Final Act and European integration.

The ministers emphasized that Nato had no wish to destabilize Europe, encroach on the Soviet Union's legitimate security interests or seek unilateral advantage.

They said Nato's stronger political role, which should not come at the expense of its defence capabilities, should be exercised mainly through the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe process. They were ready to consider convening a second Helsinki conference — suggested by President Gorbachov in Rome recently — but emphasized that this must be well prepared, and should come after the signing of a treaty reducing conventional forces, now being negotiated io Vienna.

Such a conference, grouping all 35 signatories of the Helsinki Final Act, could come after a probahle summit next year of the 23 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries taking part in the negotiations for the reduction of Conventional Forces in Europe.

The ministers also called for the expansion of economic relations with Eastern Europe, saying that this neglected "Basket Two" of the Final Act should be given greater weight. They called for a rationalization of the measures to prevent the transfer of high technology enforced hy the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, long denounced by the Soviet Union. Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, insisted the Paris-based organization would continue to protect strategic technology, hut "things that are available off the shelf should not be locked up".

Mr Baker: Called for the strengthening of EC links.

Mr Baker's call this week for a "new Atlanticism" and a strengthening of Nato and US links with the EC was generally well received, but ministers were hesitant to give an immediate reaction. There were doubts — especially by the French — on the need for a formal link between Nato and the EC. But Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said there was no conflict or unnecessary duplication, as each body had its own job to do.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Secretary-General, said there was a need for a better exchange of information, but he did not want any institutional link.

Mr Baker, who later held talks with M Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, insisted that it was not the role of the US to tell the EC members how they should expand their integration. But he wanted to institutionalize the present ad hoc relationship.

Some of Mr Baker's other suggestions were quickly adopted. Nato agreed to consider an alliance role in verification of arms control treaties, while insisting that this still remained the responsibility of individual nations. Nato also accepted an invitation by Canada to study President Bush's plan for "open skies" at a conference in Ottawa in February. Warsaw Pact members will also be invited.

US companies respond to Walesa investment call

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The call by Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader who visited the United States last month, for American businessmen to invest in Poland is slowly being answered as American companies begin to realize the huge potential of the East European market.

General Electric has bought a $150 million (£94 million) stake in Tungstram, a Hungarian light bulb manufacturer; Chase Enterprises, the Connecticut communications company, has joined the Polish Government in a *multi-million-dollar venture to* provide cable television in Warsaw and Cracow, and Marriott Corporation has opened a luxury 500-room hotel in Warsaw.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation is a government agency which insures American companies investing abroad against eventualities such as political upheaval or sudden expropriation of their assets. "Our phones are ringing all day," Mr James Hall, its director of public affairs, said.

In the financial year which ended in October, the government agency entered into 115 contracts with American companies investing overseas, and in the past month it has received 40 applications from companies wishing to invest in Poland and Hungary.

The total value of the investments proposed by the com*panies which want to do* business in Poland is $1.15 billion, and in Hungary, $550 million. Their interests range from banking to shoes.

These companies want to gain a foothold in a potential market for Western goods of at least 400 million people in East Europe.

Another attraction is cheap labour. The average hourly wage in Poland is $1.35, and in Hungary $1.70, compared to $13.90 in the US and $18.07 in West Germany. This means American companies can export back to the West at highly competitive prices.

Chase Enterprises plans to charge Poles about $8.50 a month for a basic cable television service and intends to make a profit despite the popular belief that Poles are living on the breadline.

US Government policy is to encourage private investment *in Poland and Hungary* and to create the right conditions for investment rather than raid its own depleted coffers to give aid which might achieve little lasting change.

Last month it sent 29 private businessmen from big companies such as General Motors and Westinghouse to assess investment prospects.

Things getting better in Romania 'now we have food rationing'

From Michael Knipe
Bucharest

Mr Ranu Belajan, the director of the Romanian National Theatre, strode across the carpet in his cold but plushly furnished office and said, with an actor's flourish of the hand and what sounded like total conviction: "Things are getting better in Romania. Now we have food rationing."

Then he shook his head and glowered darkly at the very thought of the changes sweeping across East Europe. What was happening in the other Warsaw Pact countries was nothing less than anarchy, he said. The people were no longer working. It was very dangerous, and who knew what would become of it all?

Mr Belajan looks like the late Lord Olivier but sounds like President Ceausescu of Romania, hero of heroes and — excepting Albania — the last of the old reactionary Communist Party secretaries left in East Europe.

Mr Belajan is also a member of the Central Committee, and he dismisses any suggestion that the changes elsewhere might have provoked discussion in the Romanian party's inner forums.

"Our policy is very clear. We continue with our way. We think it is the right way. We are nnt and never have been influenced hy other models of socialism."

Outside, a layer of black ice coated the pavements and streets of Bucharest. Grim-faced women in heavy overcoats and fur hats queued at food shops for their rations: 10 eggs a month for each person, one packet of butter, about 2lb. of cheese, the same of raw meat and twice as much processed or minced meat.

Up to 50 cars wait outside petrol stations, rationed to 20 gallons a month in winter.

The temperature for much of this week was -11°C and many Romanians shivered in their unheated homes.

The most traditional of Bucharest's grand hotels, the Athenée Palace, was among the buildings without heating. Reception clerks worked in their overcoats, gloves and fur hats. Along dimly lit corridors, hurly guests in sheepskin coats flapped their arms in an attempt to whip up some warmth as they waited for lifts which work only sometimes.

In the dining room a brave violinist played folk songs wearing a dinner jacket, but the guests kept their outdoor clothes on.

And everywhere security guards in their olive-green greatcoats and fur hats stand watch inside and outside shops, offices and hotels, or systematically patrol the streets.

As communist party oligarchies crumble across Eastern Europe, Romsnia threatens to remain a living museum of party orthodoxy and institutionalized power. It is a country where suspicion and corruption are rife.

The people have seen nothing of the demonstrations in Prague and East Germany or the historic dismantling of the Berlin Wall, but many of them, in the privacy of their homes, have heard of these momentous events on the BBC, Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America.

Romanian newspapers have continued to fill their columns with verbatim reports and extensive analysis of Mr Ceausescu's speeches. Reporting of the historic events in Prague, Berlin, Sofia, Warsaw and Budapest has been restricted to single paragraphs announcing the deposing of the various leaders — but without explanation.

There is little doubt that most people know at least something of what has been happening elsewhere.

"Sometimes you hear something like the sacking of Husak (the former Czechoslovak leader) on Radio Free Europe and you mention it to colleagues at work, but it is best not to venture an opinion," said a businessman. "Things have got better. Today no one will ask you where you heard such a thing."

Twenty years ago a relative of mine was sent to prison for five years for listening to Radio Free Europe.

"In some ways you see we are freer now than in my father's time, hut at the moment all the people are afraid — more afraid now than they were three months ago."

Romanians and diplomats from Eastern as well as Western embassies are asking themselves why it is that Mr Ceausescu's regime seems immune from the flames of reform sweeping through the Continent.

There is general agreement that there is as much disaffection here as elsewhere in the Warsaw Pact, and a great deal more hardship for the people. But, as far as anyone can tell in such a secretive society, there are no signs of any rebellion either from within the party or outside it.

The President and his family continue to dominate the political scene, and the security apparatus is all-powerful. Diplomats admit that they are almost entirely isolated from the ruling Establishment. One cultural attaché said that, if be attempted to entertain artists or musicians at his home, he had to submit the invitations through the authorities, who would decide whether the event could take place and who could attend.

The regime's nervousness about the winds of change sweeping through the Warsaw Pact countries was clearly in evidence last month when it staged a five-day party congress. At one point, said a diplomat, the increased security was so intense that as many as four security men were guarding every poster bearing Mr Ceausescu's picture.

The congress was stage-managed with impressive thoroughness, and ended with the re-election of the 71-year-old President, who has been in power for 24 years.

Some Romanians blame a lack of natural cohesion or tradition of resistance in their society for the fact that they are being left behind as other East European societies transform themselves.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Here are a few suggestions for a sporting Christmas. For cricket enthusiasts, there is always the pleasure of your own bowling machine — Bola will let you have one for £825 plus delivery and VAT. I was tempted, but I reasoned that a machine that bowls consistent line and length would be oo practice for the real thing.

It would add a nice touch to face the bowling io an Ayrtoo Senna motor-racing helmet. Senna, the former formula one champion, has been racing since he was a mere boy, begining with karts in 1969. Appareotly in all that time — with 20 Grand Prix wins — he has been using a Bell helmet. He has oot done too badly, even if be has managed to live without the friendship of Nigel Mansell. Bell are celebrating his 20-year associatioo with the firm by issuing a limited edition of 250 replicas of Senna's helmet, each one oumbered and autographed. It's yours for a thousand bucks.

For the person who seeks true style and class, as well as this columns's plaudits, there can be only ooe present: what else but a hand-made racing tricycle? The Tricycle Associatioo tells me that £1,300 should get you something pretty decent.

Crystal Palace Supporters Club is not the first place you would look for a neat conceptual joke, but all the same, it has pulled one off with great charm. Today Palace have an away fixture against Charltoo Athletie in the first division. Now, Palace and Charltoo *both* play their home games at Selhurst Park. However, the Palace supporters have laid on coaches for supporters, as they do for every away game. They will be double deckers, and will leave Selhurst Park at 10.30am. The fans will make a sight-seeing tour of London, and return to the ground at 1 pm, giving them ample time to recover from the rigours of the journey before shouting the lads to victory oo alien territory.

● How do you entertain the Soviet rugby union team after beating them out of sight? Combined Services played them the post-horn gallop, on a trio of posthorn, rifle and light machinegun. So that's what these things are for, comrade.

The Vatican, although a sovereign state, does oot oormally send a team to the World Cup finals, but will be doing so next summer, when it all happens in Italy. Vatican officials see this as a great opportunity to spread the Word: "We will operate among players, team officials and supporters," says Father Carlo Mazza. "It's a unique opportunity to evangelize non-Catholic people arriving from distant countries." He added: "We believe that the unexplored world of athletes is in deep need of spirituality. We hope to have the fans discussing the problem of violence in the arenas and contribute to a solution." Well signori, when you get to Cagliari, please give it all you've got.

BARRY FANTONI

My first nomination for sportspersoo of the decade went to a dead horse; my second goes to a one-legged water-skier, and rather a remarkable fellow. Ivor Wood writes to nominate Steve Butterworth, a speedway rider who had a leg amputated at the knee. In the 10 years since then be has played squash, cricket, football and basketball and has swum — holding a breaststroke record for amputees. Two years ago he water-skied across the Channel, and last year he did it in both directions, covering 68 miles in 1 hr 55 min, the fastest double crossing ever on water-skis by anyone on any oumber of legs. Butterworth broke his remaining leg in September, so I hope his magnum of Taittinger cheers him up. Keep sending suggestions.

They are on the hunt for a likely Australian to win the Bradman Scholarship at Oxford, to commence io 1990. You have to be between 21 and 26, and must produce three character references, two academic references and two cricketing references. You must have an honours degree and be a good cricketer. I am not sure if Lindsay Reeler has a degree, but she is a magnificent attacking batter, with a superb late cut: just the sort of person the Bradman Museum Trust ought to support.

Conor Cruise O'Brien on Washington's irrelevant line

Germany alone will decide

There was a hollow ring to the speech in West Berlin this week by James Baker, the US Secretary of State. Ostensibly, he was talking about the future, but his language was full of assumptions that oo longer hold, because the foundations on which they were based have crumbled away. "Working together," he, said, "we must design and gradually put into place a new architecture for a new era."

Here, "we" means the United States and its Nato allies in Europe. The key word in the sentence is "gradually". Io another part of his speech, Baker was specific about what he would like to happen "gradually": the reunification of Germany.

"This very positive course", be said, "will not be easy, nor can it be rushed. It must be peaceful, it must be democratic. It must respect the legitimate concerns of all the participants in the new Europe."

These remarks are based on an assumption that is legally sound but politically obsolete. It is that people who are not German can determine the pace and form of German reunification.

Influential Germans are now increasingly displaying their cootempt for all thinking based on that assumption. On the day on which Mr Baker spoke — Tuesday — *Die Welt* dismissed the "Status of Berlin" communiqué issued by the four ambassadors the previous day with the comment that "the victorious powers of 1945 can do little more than buy each other a celebration drink. The time in which they could judge Germans as they saw fit is over".

In East Germany, the forces of nationalism and economic self-interest, strongly interacting, converge towards a desire for reunification. If that is the wish expressed in elections in the East, the pace and form of reunification will be determined mainly by the West Germans. Chancellor Kohl will then be under pressure to work out with the democratic government of East Germany a programme of reunification, to be published in time to influence the West German elections, in December 1990.

It may be that his programme for reunificatioo will be as cautious and gradual as the American Secretary of State and European governments desire. That depends on how, six months from now, West Germans are feeling about unity.

They will no doubt still want unification, but they may perhaps be in less of a hurry about it than East Germans are. It is the West Germans, after all, who will have to foot the bills; nationalism and economic self-interest, clearly convergent io East Germany, may diverge in West Germany, at least in the short run. If so, Kohl will be slow and careful about this business, for strictly German reasons.

On the other hand, it may be that caution based on economic considerations will give way to the intoxicating power of recovered pride as unification looms in sight next summer, after the East German elections. Or an improvised *de facto* unificatioo may occur well before that, to stave off a breakdown of East Germany into anarchy.

Whatever happens, "the legitimate concerns of all the participants in the new Europe" — meaning non-Germans — cao have no more than a peripheral role to play, and not necessarily a positive one: a German nationalism which no longer fears to speak its name might make use of such intimations for its own purposes.

Candidates in next year's German elections (East and West) may find it rewarding to express resentment of the intrigues of foreigners in matters which, of their nature, are purely German. Kohl may oot wish to play that game, but if his opponents play it, and gain by it, he may have to join in.

Barring the dire and exceedingly improbable eventuality of Soviet military intervention, there is nothing outsiders can do to hinder German unification or even delay it significantly.

Heavy hints about the desirability of doing these things have been frequent in recent weeks; there were some in the Baker speech, some at the Malta summit, and some at the European summit. Such hints, which are easy to decode, only tend to inflame the nationalism they are intended to contain. It would be better frankly to acknowledge that reunification will be controlled by the Germans themselves. And it would not be advisable for Britain to guarantee Poland's frontier against a united Germany. It would be reassuring if Germany itself were to make such a guarantee, but somehow, despite some benign *obiter dicta* by Mr Kohl, I don't think it will.

Mr Baker talked about "a new role for Nato", but he sounded as though he were trying to convince himself that the United States will continue to play a major role in European affairs. This is unlikely. Americans accepted, and were prepared for, a big military and political role in Western Europe as long as Western Europe appeared to be under threat from the Soviet Union. Sioce that threat ceased to be credible when Soviet power receded, millions of Americans have lost interest in Europe. The recent events in Eastern Europe became a drug on the US television market, as soon as it became clear that there was unlikely to be a second Tiananmen Square. If the US televiewer finds Europe a bore, the US taxpayer is not likely to be willing to find the money for the US to go on playing a major role in Europe.

Nevertheless, some Europeans are known to hope that the US will continue to play such a role; not any longer to guarantee the defences of the West against the Soviet Union, but to offset the economic preponderance, and possible hegemonic tendencies, of a united Germany.

But despite several passages in Mr Baker's speech in Berlin, the Bush administratioo is thinking, not so much about "offsetting" the power of Germany, as about entering into a "partnership" with it. By cultivating Bonn, Washingtoa hopes to keep Bonn from "going off the rails", specifically from leaving Nato. But it is not Bonn that is likely to be decisive in these matters. The capital of the united Germany will probably be Berlin.

Charge that would be self-defeating

Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, opposes any financial barriers between the public and its treasury of pictures

Io the spring of 1918, at one of the bleaker moments of the First World War, the government resolved to make a special grant for the British nation. This allocation of extraordinary funds was voted oot for munitions or food, which were indisputably in short supply, but for paintings, to enable the Trustees of the National Gallery to bid in Paris at the great sale held in March of that year of the pictures owned by Degas. With these funds, the Trustees acquired for the natioo Delacroix's portrait of Baroo Schwiter, three works by Ingres, a Gauguin still-life and the mooumental fragments of Manet's "Execution of the Emperor Maximilian".

Twenty-three years later, in March 1941, when the United States was preparing to intervene in the Second World War, President Roosevelt accepted, on behalf of the American people, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, given by Mr Andrew Mellon, enriched by the gifts of Messrs Kress and Widener, and modelled in every material respect oo the National Gallery in London.

Like its sister institution in Trafalgar Square, the Washingtoo National Gallery was to be maintained at public expense, to present the highest achievements of Western art and to be open to all free of charge: access to great art was one of the defining characteristics of a free nation.

In a striking phrase, President Roosevelt argued that "great works of art have a way of breaking out of private ownership into public use". And that use, he went on, was to stand as "symbols of the human spirit and of the work the freedom of the human spirit made".

These two incidents are, I believe, of the utmost relevance today. Anglo-Saxons are oot, as is often alleged, Philistines, nor have we ever been. On the contrary, the peoples of Northern Europe and North America have set the standards in public access to art.

The great achievement of the British Museum, the National Gallery and our other national collections has been envied and emulated abroad: the complex of Smithsonian museums and art collections in the Mall in Washington is, like our public collections, a tangible result of the Enlightenment ideal that every citizen should have the right of access to the highest. And that ideal is today a reality not only in London and Washington, but in Glasgow and Leeds; Fort Worth, St Louis, Cleveland and Malibu; Copenhagen and Berlin.

In recent years there have been critics of this achievement. They argue that the cost of free galleries is too high, or that things not paid for are never fully appreciated. They would have us follow the example of Paris or New York. They argue that financial conditions in the United Kingdom are oow such that we should abandon the traditioo of two centuries, remove from the public the right of easy familiarity with their paintings, and charge for entrance. The suggestions are seriously made and must be seriously considered.

Wartime insistence on the central place of art is of course inspiring, but it is in oo sense surprising. In modern society, paintings investigate, as oothing else but literature and religion can, the great questions of suffering, hope, love, death and redemption. Individuals, like nations, need to contemplate Piero and Rubens for exactly the reasons they need to read Dante and Shakespeare: in joy or in distress, the unconsidered life is no life at all. Our art galleries have the crucial task of allowing people to take themselves seriously. They exist that we may oot only have life, hut have it abundantly.

And oot just on one free day a week. Anyone who has used a gallery for respite knows the importance of even a brief visit — indeed, especially of a brief visit when the opportunity occurs. From the very foundation of the National Gallery, the significance of free entry and easy access for all was stressed. The gallery was to be situated not in a pleasant, leafy suburb (although that might have been better for the pictures than the sulphurous ceotre), but "in the very gangway of London", so that all might reach it with ease. And the prime minister responsible for its foundation, that arch-Tory Lord Liverpool, was from the beginning insistent that even babes in arms should be allowed in; for if babes were excluded, so would be all parents without servants to tend them.

I find it hard to believe that the need for access to beauty in daily life is less oow than it was 170 years ago. During that time, around 1,300 of the National Gallery's paintings have been given to the nation, while the other 700 or so have been bought for it. They were given or purchased (like those bought in 1918) oo the understanding that they would be available to all, and in normal circumstances all are on view.

Galleries exist, as Roosevelt said, for public use. Each person uses them in his or her own way, but to use a gallery, yoo must visit it. If we reduce the number of visitors by 40 per cent (and the evidence from art museums suggests that this would be the minimum effect of introducing a charge of any sort), then we reduce by the same proportion the use the public makes of its collections.

The value of a visit to a museum or gallery is, of course, unquantifiable. We cannot know how many lives have been affected, or in what degree, by contact with great paintings. What we can quantify is the number of people who use the gallery, and that has now climbed to well over three millioo a year: to accommodate and serve them better, we are opening the Sainsbury Wing in 1991. What they gain from their visit only they know, but the oumbers, and the oumbers of those who return, suggest it is something of great value.

We should be proud to have led the world in the tradition of free museums and galleries.

The economic aspects of this question are peripheral. Since 1824, the National Gallery has been outstandingly fortunate in its friends, and oever more so than in the last five years. Charging for admission is, oonetheless, always an option to be considered, given the huge sums required to put the building to rights or to buy paintings worthy of the collection.

At best the National Gallery might raise a net £500,000 a year from entrance charges. We already earn nearly twice that much each year from our shop (the proceeds of which receotly bought the Caspar David Friedrich "Winter Landscape"), and gifts to the gallery in cash and in kind exceeded £5 millioo last year. Customers in the shop are visitors to the gallery, and their oumbers would dwindle if they were made to pay for entrance.

There can be oo doobt that benefactors want their pictures to be seen and enjoyed by as many people as possible. In the same way, our sponsors would like as many as possible to enjoy the fruits of their sponsorship. If shop receipts, gifts and sponsorship are jeopardized, the net gain — £500,000 at the outside — is likely to be considerably less than we shall lose.

Even so £500,000 represents less than 5 per cent of our annual expenditure. Of course, the National Gallery must do what it can to raise money, but all our experience suggests that the money can be raised in ways that do oot keep the public from their pictures.

Disraeli once remarked that "It is private life that governs the world". This argument concerns free access to one of the most important things in private life. One of my predecessors at the National Gallery, Lord Clark, memorably observed: "You ask me, what is the purpose of art? I can only reply, what is the purpose of love?"

Michael Kinsley

Upstaged by Westminster

Washington

America's armchair Anglophiles no longer have to content themselves with reruns of *Upstairs, Downstairs* and *Fawlty Towers*. C-SPAN, the cable-television channel that transmits the proceedings of Congress, has been filling some of its empty hours with excerpts from the newly televised House of Commons.

Speaking, if I may, for the Anglophiles, there are certain small disappointments: only one man, the Speaker, seems to wear a wig. And where is Alistair Cooke to explain it all? Still, the names, the accents, the suits are magnificent. Someone named Sir Fergus Montgomery complains of injustice to war widows, with reference to a letter in *The Times*. A Scottish lady discourses earnestly about what sounds like "genital affairs". Wait, make that "general affairs". The Tory benches are a forest of foppish pinstripes.

The US House of Representatives, by contrast, generally goes in for silly diminutive nicknames ("Newt" and "Vin") and baggy suits of solid blue. In lieu of stripes, members festoon themselves with pins and badges representing various political causes and patriotic themes.

Some of us are disappoioted, too, by the Commons' lack of Wildean wit. Mrs Thatcher's style, aped by a chorus of young Tory sycophants, relies upon heavy-handed sarcasm. "Perhaps we should wait and see so we can pootificate in the light of the facts," she sneers in response to a complaint of some sort.

More entertaining are the old-fashioned class-war thrusts from venerable Labour MPs. It's less like Wilde than Clifford Odets, the American left-wing playwright of the 1930s, but there is oothing like it in American mainstream politics.

"The Home Secretary has never lived in a cardboard box." (Colleagues: "You tell 'em, Frank.") "He's got a garage with a couple of cars in it. I've got people back in my constituency who have to walk because they can't even afford the bus fare."

After a staged questioo to Mrs Thatcher from one of the Young Sycophants (something like: "Would the Prime Minister agree that the past ten years have been the most glorious in British history since mankind was expelled from Eden?"), a Labourite yells "Get off your knees!"

Even between political opponents there is far more debilitating politesse in the American House than in the Commons. Vast amounts of time are wasted praising bipartisanship, thanking the member for his cooperation, and so on. During several hours of a recent session, the only disagreement was between two Florida representatives about who had more old people io his district.

The House of Commons Show vividly demonstrates the advantage of having a separate head of government and head of state. Mrs Thatcher, world-reknowned for her haughtiness, undergoes a twice-weekly ritual of humiliation-by-questioning the infliction of which on a US president would be an unthinkable act of *lèse majesté*. "Will the Prime Minister now make a public apology for this gross incompetence?" Has she not been rendered "a pygmy on the world stage" by something or other? Will she not "be swept from office and dumped in the garbage" very sooo?

Mrs Thatcher gives as good as she gets, of course, but the whole process has a democratically healthy levelling effect. Indeed, after watching Parliament for a while, C-SPAN's House of Representatives Show suddenly seems like *Hamlet* without the Prince. The lead character, George Bush, is mentioned often but never appears.

Parliamentary question time is the equivalent of two institutions of American democracy: testimony by cabinet secretaries in front of congressional committees, and presidential press cooferences, which are the only occasions on which the president is publicly worked over.

Cabinet members here justifiably complain of the time they spend preparing for and appearing at the congressional hearings. Usually in these sessions the cabinet member and the interrogating politician are both mere mouthpieces for aides, who can often be seen on C-SPAN striking the classic Washington pose of leaning forward from behind and whispering in the boss's ear. In Parliament, questions and answers are brief and there are oo aides in sight.

As for the presidential press conference, Commons question time offers the perfect answer to the perennial Washingtoo question, "Who elected Sam Donaldson?" Donaldsoo was for many years television's most vicious White House correspondent. It is indeed an odd system that gives the vital democratic function of challenging the chief executive exclusively to unelected journalists. But no sensible American president would trade Donaldsoo for Neil Kinnock. Free of the need to appear objective or fair, opposition MPs ask tougher questions than White House correspondents would dare.

Established a decade ago, C-SPAN has turned into a wonderful adventure in true-life political theatre. Funded by the cable industry and run on a shoestring, it fills the airtime between sessions with committee hearings, think-tank semioars, State Departmeot briefings, a charity "roast" in honour of a bigshot journalist, a showing of campaign commercials by the Democratic senatorial campaign committee. It is America's oearest equivalent to the public-affairs programmes on British TV.

And there's more fun ahead. C-SPAN's founder, Brian Lamb, is trying to get permission to broadcast the Israeli Knesset. Mel Brooks, look to your laurels!

The author is senior editor of The New Republic.

Melancholy of a mouse muser

MATTHEW PARRIS

I was one of those little boys who kept mice. The first breeding pair came from a petshop and cost a shilling each. Later immigrants to my cage came from friends and, once, a wild mouse came to stay, though she did not get on with the others and had to leave.

The mouse population sooo grew, as (with breathtaking frequency) oests of chewed newspaper filled with litters of tiny pink babies: blind, delicate, almost transluscent — like underdone cocktail sausages. These were exciting times and I would cycle back fast from school, to be present at the birth whenever possible — decades ahead of the fashionable men of today. Once, when a newborn litter's parents fell victim to the cat, I raised the babies by letting them suck pieces of string dipped io milk.

Mice are beautiful creatures if you look at them quietly. Mine were mostly white, with little cherry-coloured eyes: but there were a couple of black ooes (two shillings), while a prized possession was a honey-coloured mouse, unusually tame. Sadly, the cat got her. I always hoped that the mating of black and white mice might produce a piebald issue, but it never did. The chapter on genetics in my encyclopaedia explained that the chances were slim.

I built the cage myself. It was based on instructions in a *Pets Annual*, but it was more ambitious. In addition to a home-made exercise wheel (which they never used) I constructed jumps, ladders, ramps and a series of mezzanine galleries on different levels. It looked like a stage-set for an avant-garde opera.

This cage was larger than any others I ever saw. I felt sorry for the mice beiog shut in, but experiments with free-range in my bedroom had alarmed my mother and ended in tragedy with the cat: so the aim was to make their prison as big and as interesting as possible. They even had separate sleeping quarters, though they never used them. They had minds of their own.

Honestly. Each mouse (you may not know this) has a clear and distinct personality. They are not alike at all, once you get to know them. Some are forgiving, some placid, others wary. Some are lazy, some greedy, others pull their weight io the mouse community. Some can return affection, some not. Some are mentally ill, some imagine they are physically ill when they are oot.

Mice suffer, in fact, from most of the same complaints as us. Luckily I found a vet who took my pets seriously: *Dr* Sugden (but I called her "Mrs"). t would cycle to her surgery with my small patients in shoebox ambulances. Once, after a disastrous raid by the cat (my fault — left cage door unlatched — cat spotted it — cats will wait forever) I took a mouse whose hind leg had been all hut severed, and Dr Sugden saved him though he always limped.

Each had a name: not silly names like Ophelia or Silton, but real names like George and Claire. All too often we had to resort to "George Jnr" or "Claire No 2" after incidents involving the cat; but generally the population held up well and later multiplied. We racked our brains for new names.

But it is not true that I called one of my mice "Twinkletoes". My mother — who wrote and read childrens' stories for the radio — made that up. I still wince to recall the receptioo the following morning in the school playground. It taught me an early lesson about irresponsible journalism . . .

Ah — *journalism* — I was daydreaming: and that brings me back to the present. The present is the beginning of winter in Derbyshire, when the mice start to come in for refuge (Mr Hurd would call them economic migrants). There is a mouse problem in my house. Look at it all ways — and I really have — there is only one answer. I did try letting the first immigrants stay: am I so mean, I thought, that (living alone) I cannot share a big house with a couple of mice? But they were a married couple: and soon there was the patter of *very* tiny feet, and mouse droppings oo my pillow when I arrived from London. So I had to . . . must I spell it out? You will know what I had to do.

I arrived from Londoo last night. One trap had killed the mother cleanly. But the father was still struggling in the other trap. It had almost severed his leg.

Mrs Dr Sugden could have mended it, hut she is gone. And the string dipped in milk for feeding the babies is gone too. And a lot else, besides.

THE TIMES

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

'CHEWING STALE GUM'

Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, looked at the future this week, shuddered, and shut his eyes. The brake he has put on economic reforms in the Soviet Union, reverting to faith in the imposition of discipline by the centre through "rigid directive measures", is likely to feed the social instability he seeks to control.

Mr Ryzhkov's blueprint, presented to the Congress of People's Deputies, is the 13th five-year plan since the Revolution, and it bears a depressing similarity to its predecessors. There is, for instance, the familiar promise to meet consumer demand by switching investment from capital to consumer goods. It claims to be a comprehensive plan for an orderly transition to "market-orientated relations", placing more emphasis on prices, taxation, credit and investment. Unfortunately, it baulks at most of the reforms which make such a transition possible.

The Soviet leadership is divided. The deputy prime minister in charge of economic reform, Dr Leonid Abalkin, is convinced that there is no half-way house between state control and a market system. Reforms so far have dislocated the old state planning system, while reinforcing central controls in critical areas like agriculture. Dr Abalkin concludes that a radical devolution of decision-making is imperative, and that the Soviet economy can recover only if citizens are given "economic freedom". His ideas include property rights, the denationalization of state enterprises, the creation of financial and labour markets and the adjustment to world market prices. (The poorest would be cushioned from the shock through a social security system).

So radical a conversion to the market has set alarm bells ringing. Last month, President Gorbachov told his advisers that an abrupt switch to a market system would set off street riots that would overthrow the Government. There have been violent protests about living conditions and food shortages, strikes which cost seven million working days last year and inflation unofficially estimated in double figures. There is an obvious temptation to return to the old verities of command management. But Mr Ryzhkov, in attempting to play safe by postponing action, has chosen the most dangerous course.

Price reforms, central to a functioning market, are to be postponed. Soviet economists are perfectly aware that a market economy cannot function without signals to measure supply and demand. The existing situation, in which state prices are ridiculously low and those of the black market all too accurately reflect suppressed demand, is economic nonsense. It is also politically explosive, because the discrepancies feed the popular resentment against market forces which threatens further reform.

Under the new plan, farm-gate prices will not be raised until 1991, and there will be no question of tackling retail prices until 1992, and then only after "national debate". Meanwhile, for good measure, there will be a police crackdown on the one growth area in the market — the informal, or black, economy.

There is a cautious commitment to a future system of "property relations" for a "socialist market", to include family and individual contracts for farmers. The Government, however, has turned its back on private property ownership (including land), on the denationalization of the state sector, on monetary reform and on the devolution of decision-making to regions and to industries. Some earlier reforms, such as the election by workers of the managers of state enterprises, have been rolled back in the name of "discipline".

This failure of nerve is likely to mean economic stagnation. It will also have political consequences. It gives increased leverage to the party — whose members, Mr Gorbachov once memorably said, instead of being in the vanguard of *perestroika*, were simply "chewing stale gum".

He may have felt the need to compromise with his conservative wing. He knows they are fearful of economic innovation and they are no doubt infuriated by a recent *Pravda* article in which he praised some of the achievements of Western European social democracy. In the Soviet Union's current circumstances, however, compromise could look remarkably like defeat.

RAINBOW OVER CHILE

Señor Patricio Aylwin won Thursday's presidential election in Chile by the widest margin of any Chilean president this century. More than seven million votes were cast (men and women in separate polling stations) and rather more than 55 per cent of them went to Señor Aylwin. His comfortable majority at the polls does not necessarily translate into the prospect of a comfortable tenure of office.

These were the first presidential elections since 1970, when President Salvador Allende was returned at the head of a Socialist and Communist coalition. Three years later, he was brought down by the Armed Forces; there followed a decade and a half of military rule under General Augusto Pinochet. The country became a byword for repression and the violation of human rights. It was also a period in which economic chaos was replaced by a liberal free market system.

Señor Aylwin, a 71-year-old lawyer, is a Christian Democrat, but he came to power at the head of a 17-party alliance — the same combination that defeated President Pinochet's attempt to win another eight-year term in last year's plebiscite. This so-called "rainbow" grouping did not include the Communists, but did command the support of a great many former Allende supporters.

The Pinochet years were a sobering experience for the Socialists, and after prolonged debate they decided not to field a candidate to the left of Mr Aylwin on this occasion. One former Socialist senator, who was in exile in Spain until two years ago, acknowledged that his party had been "a principal actor in the crisis we have suffered", and said that it owed the country "some penitence".

Señor Aylwin had two opponents. Señor Francisco Javier Errázuriz, who brought up the rear, made a fortune out of supermarkets. He is best described as a conservative populist, although in his own words he represented the "centre-centre". Like many populists, he demonstrated an enlarged talent for devising instant solutions to intractable problems. The more formidable Señor Hernán Büchi used to be General Pinochet's finance minister, and he carried the banners of the National Renovation Party, a centre-right grouping, and the more right-wing Independent Democratic Union. He deserves much of the credit for Chile's improved economic performance in recent years. Thirty years younger than Mr Aylwin, he attracted about 30 per cent of the votes despite his association with the Pinochet regime. If the economic advisers that the new President has gathered round him fail to satisfy the anti-inflationary expectations they have generated, Señor Büchi will most certainly be there to say "I told you so".

After his victory, the president-elect said to the crowds, "Chile has again taken its destiny in its hands". Not everyone, however, is entirely persuaded that they have seen the last of General Pinochet. He once said that not a leaf moved in Chile without his permission, and at the time it seemed only a slight exaggeration. His contempt for politicians is equalled only by his scorn for the outside world. He was sourly dismissive of the hundreds of foreign observers which the elections attracted to Chile.

Only this week, the ruling junta adopted an amendment to the Constitution which had the effect of ruling out any form of parliamentary inquiry into the activities of the military regime. The present Constitution, promulgated in 1980, gives President Pinochet the right to retain command of the Army for another eight years, and it has yet to be established that Señor Aylwin's majority was large enough to allow him to embark on a course of constitutional reform.

The victor is fond of describing himself as an "ordinary Chilean". He and his "rainbow coalition" will need far from ordinary political skills and a great deal of courage if democracy is to take firm root again in Chilean soil.

OUTLOOK UNSETTLED

This week's news on the economic front has been variable, but not entirely discouraging. On the brighter side, the sharp slowdown in retail sales confirms the impact of high interest rates on consumer confidence, and this is supported by lower figures for new car registrations. While Christmas prospects may be bleaker than high street traders would like, inflationary pressures will be that much lower.

The fall in unemployment is also slowing down, looking at the trend over three months, which while discouraging for those in search of a job is reassuring from the point of view of getting inflation down. By the standards of recent history, and given the steepness in the fall of unemployment, the wonder is that pay settlements have not risen much higher.

Inflation, on the other hand, is showing a more mixed picture. Manufacturers' prices rose more slowly than expected last month, in spite of a rise in the cost of materials and fuel. Firms appear to be accepting a squeeze on profit margins, which is as intended. But yesterday's retail price index shows a persistently high underlying level of inflation — 6.1 per cent, excluding mortgage interest payments. Adding the effect of the rise in mortgage rates back in, the overall "headline" rate of inflation rose from 7.3 per cent to 7.7 per cent last month. And with some effect of the mortgage increase yet to be felt, and further rises in food prices expected, the rate is likely to rise still further in December.

Average earnings, likewise, have shown some increase, rising for the second month running in October to 9¼ per cent. The pay databank maintained by the Confederation of British Industry, which tracks recent settlements for the coming year rather than actual earnings during the past year, shows pay settlements averaging 8.3 per cent in the third quarter, two percentage points higher than the same period a year earlier.

In the case both of earnings and inflation the most disturbing feature is the deterioration in the "quality" of the numbers. Although there is still a large element of mortgage interest payments in the retail price index — which as they reflect interest rate increases for the purpose of defeating inflation are not ultimately a cause for alarm — the proportion accounted for by the underlying inflation rate has been increasing. In the case of earnings, less and less of the increase reflects overtime or bonus payments and more and more reflects basic pay.

Next week brings further information on the money supply, which has been worryingly slow to respond to treatment but may now be beginning to slow down. Borrowing by companies should fall back as stocks of raw materials and finished goods are run down. Less reassuring will be the survey of investment intentions, which may show a sharp fall in the rate of investment by business next year, though lower investment will help to keep down domestic demand. Most important for the City will be the trade figures which are not due until after Christmas.

In short, although we are on the road to lower inflation, there is still a long way to go. Having failed to raise interest rates while sterling fell (and while the water industry was privatized), the Chancellor should be in no hurry to bring them down in response to any sterling recovery.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Increased traffic from rail link

From the Director of Network SouthEast

Sir, Mr Greenman's letter (December 13) on the road traffic issues associated with the Paddington to Heathrow Express rail link deserves careful analysis.

His argument that yet another major study is needed, covering east-west Crossrail and other property developments in the Paddington area, would lead to considerable delay in providing the Heathrow rail link, the importance of which was highlighted in your leader of December 14.

Heathrow Express will be a high-speed, specialised link for airport customers and their luggage. Crossrail would be a high density urban railway to relieve congestion on the central London Underground network. We hope to introduce Heathrow Express at the end of 1993, but it will be 1998 at the earliest before Crossrail can be completed.

We believe that a dedicated, high-quality, non-stop service will always be needed so that airport customers will always be able to join a Heathrow train waiting at Paddington. However, it may be possible to run additional trains to Heathrow through Crossrail if it is built. This would need to be reviewed once the Crossrail scheme has been approved by Parliament.

It is for the City of Westminster to decide how they wish to handle any increased traffic arising from other major schemes proposed for the Paddington area. The peak-hour passenger movements generated are likely to overshadow any traffic caused by the Heathrow link and would undoubtedly be greatly assisted by the provision of Crossrail.

Independent traffic consultants' studies have demonstrated that the effect of additional road traffic generated by Heathrow Express is limited to a very small radius around the station — it will not produce the "unmanageable numbers of taxis, cars and coaches" as suggested by Mr Greenman.

We are committed to a Heathrow link and a Paddington station that works well. Because some customers will take taxis we also need an efficient road system. Congestion in either location is as little in our best interests as it is in those of Mr Greenman and his fellow residents.

Yours faithfully,
C. E. W. GREEN, Director,
Network SouthEast,
British Railways Board,
Euston House,
24 Eversholt Street, NW1.
December 14.

Self-catering

From Mr E. C. L. Butler

Sir, I assume from Mr Singleton's plea (December 5) that although he suffers from a stroke, he can do what is necessary to prepare "convenience" foods for eating.

I did have early elementary knowledge of basic cooking, but having to do the cooking myself for the past year after a very long interval, I have made the task simple by the use of a "dry fry" utensil in which a complete main course can be cooked.

No water is used, only a teaspoon of oil in the pan. Cooking is by convection — the pan has an airtight cover — and only minimum heat is required.

Yours very truly,
E. C. L. BUTLER,
30 Mayfair, Post Hill,
Tiverton, Devon.
December 8.

From the Reverend Chris Hudson

Sir, Though I sympathise with Mr Singleton I wonder why he believes that it was his wife who failed him. My wife is a splendid and resourceful cook but she didn't teach me to cook. The person who did that, many years before our marriage, was my mother.

What is more I still relish the description of cookery given to me by a widower when 100 years old. His description of the noble art was, "Tis only common sense, sanctified common sense perhaps".

Yours faithfully,
C. J. HUDSON,
The Rectory, Shirwell,
Barnstable, Devon.

From Mrs Paul A. Kellett

Sir, My sister-in-law has solved Mr Singleton's problem by insisting her son took the same short cookery course as his sisters when he left school.

Yours etc.,
MURIEL KELLETT,
Pond House, Manor Close,
Penn, Buckinghamshire.

Student loans

From the Secretary and Registrar of Bath University

Sir, Your parliamentary report (December 6) quotes the Secretary of State for Education as saying that the idea that he had unlimited powers to make loans was utter nonsense and goes on to say that student support grant in the United Kingdom was generous in comparison with Japan, Italy, West Germany, France and the United States.

Those countries not only make considerable direct subsidies to students' welfare and well being whilst they are in higher education, but also make substantial indirect financial resources available to the institutions for most of the costs covered by the United Kingdom maintenance allowance.

In the United Kingdom, not only do students have to pay for their subsistence and accommodation entirely themselves without subsidy from the institutions, but they even have to pay the mortgage the universities and polytechnics have to raise to provide the accommodation.

Furthermore, Sir, Mr MacGregor's reported statement that the cost of administering the Government's student-loan scheme would be "in the range of" £10 million to £20 million in the first three years, is astounding at this stage of the debate. Setting aside the issue of whether or not student loans are appropriate for the future or not, is it not time that the facts and figures were prepared fully and accurately for proper judgement to be made?

Yours,
R. M. MAWDITT,
Secretary and Registrar,
The University of Bath,
Claverton Down,
Bath, Avon.
December 6.

Analysing 'moderate' drinking

From Professor Samuel I. Cohen

Sir, You report on December 11 that the Social Affairs Unit state that "moderate" drinking can be beneficial to the heart and in other ways and that "the majority will not develop cirrhosis". The most obvious effect of alcohol is on the brain and it is because of this that drinkers put themselves and others at risk, as the Health Education Authority rightly point out.

The use of words like "abuse", "prohibitionist" and "the anti-alcohol lobby" in this context stems from the fact that most of those concerned in this field have to deal with very heavy drinking and the serious effects of this such as cirrhosis and dementia. The vast majority of those who take alcohol do not fall into this group.

I am concerned about the way more modest quantities of alcohol, by *users*, not abusers, affect the brain in some people. Of 58 new patients attending one of my clinics since January, 1988, with main complaints of anxiety, panic attacks, irritability, or sleeplessness, 20 were drinking what most regarded as modest amounts and all of these were relieved of their symptoms within about six weeks when they stopped drinking. None of these was referred for alcohol problems as such.

The lowest consumption in this group was in a lorry driver of 38 who took about eight or nine whiskies and about three pints of lager twice each weekend, with no alcohol during the week. People often claim that they are drinking to relieve symptoms like anxiety, panic, or insomnia: in 95 of 100 of such persons the alcohol is the *cause* of the symptoms and the only way to find out which is the cart and which is the horse is to stop drinking and to review the situation after six weeks.

Thus there is a choice to be made in many people between having symptoms or taking alcohol and it is for the individual to decide once it is made clear to him. A large number of those attending so-called "stress relief" clinics could probably be relieved of their symptoms if they stopped drinking or reduced their drinking.

People differ in their vulnerability to alcohol. The brains in about half of heavy drinkers can be shown to be shrunken, but in half they are not. Similarly at "acceptable" levels of consumption the brains of some are affected and others escape. Thus the quantity that is important is the amount that causes symptoms in the particular individual.

The use of alcohol is far greater in extent than its abuse and persons of the kind I am describing are therefore probably far more numerous than those suffering from the effects of heavy drinking. To talk of abuse is to provoke resentment and a negative response. To say that for many people *use* at the levels they are drinking is making them feel unwell and that they would feel better if they stopped or took less is much more likely to encourage moderation.

May I add that to refer to "three pints of beer" is meaningless unless the brand is specified; the alcohol content can range from 3 per cent to 11 per cent or even higher.

Yours sincerely,
SAMUEL I. COHEN,
The London Hospital Medical College,
Department of Psychiatry,
Turner Street, E1.
December 13.

From Professor John Malins

Sir, Your Science Correspondent (report, December 11) gives a balanced account of the book *Drinking to Your Health* and its advocacy of moderate drinking. Perhaps we might consider the broader view of George Saintsbury, writing in 1920:

One may boldly say that for every evil deed that fact or fancy or the unscrupulous exaggeration of partisans can charge on alcohol it has prompted a hundred good ones; that for every life it has destroyed or spoiled it made thousands happy.

I am glad to find that I am a moderate drinker and more than moderately happy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MALINS,
Tintinhull House,
Yeovil, Somerset.
December 11.

Nazi war crimes

From Mr Milton Shulman

Sir, Now that the Commons has endorsed legislation (report, December 13) to permit the prosecution of Nazi war criminals in Britain, how is it proposed to ensure that alleged war criminals will stay in this country until they are charged and tried?

Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi-hunter, has recorded the activities of Odessa (Organization of Ex-Members of the SS) whose financial resources enabled numerous top Nazis and war criminals to escape to South America and other national havens where they have lived out their days safe from prosecution.

Such resources, I am sure, would still be available to any suspected war criminals resident in Britain the moment they are seriously threatened with prosecution.

Will the intended legislation propose depriving them of their passports or putting them into custody even before they are charged or before they are tried? Otherwise is not the Commons merely engaging itself in a futile moral gesture of locking a historical stable door after its occupants undoubtedly will have bolted?

Yours faithfully,
MILTON SHULMAN,
51g Eaton Square, SW1.

From Mr Ronald Irving

Sir, Lord Shawcross's contention (December 4) that prosecuting war criminals has no deterrent effect does not hold water. If he were right, it would be pointless for society to imprison burglars because it has not deterred all burglary. But we can be certain there are many potential burglars who do not transgress because they know there are courts to punish them.

The rule that prosecution of crimes is never time-barred brings home to the potential criminal that even after half a century of freedom, the great axe of the law may yet fall on the offender's neck.

This, if no other reason, is just cause for closing the gap in our legal jurisdiction by making punishable war crimes committed abroad by men who were not then UK subjects.

Yours faithfully,
R. IRVING
Ronald Irving (Solicitors),
57 York Street, W1.

Vanunu's appeal

From the Chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and others

Sir, The Supreme Court of Israel is shortly to hand down its decision on the appeal of Mordechai Vanunu, the technician who has been jailed for 18 years after speaking to *The Sunday Times* newspaper about Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

Vanunu felt a moral duty to make public the reality of Israel's nuclear capacity. His act was inspired by motivations of the highest order — to honour his individual responsibilities under the Nuremberg principles, and to publicise the dangers of nuclear proliferation.

Vanunu has been kept for three years in solitary confinement under conditions of considerable hardship. We believe his case deserves both clemency and the understanding that he acted for reasons of conscience.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE KENT, Chairman,
HAROLD PINTER,
MAURICE WILKINS,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
22-24 Underwood Street, N1.
December 14.

Barrage and birds

From the Director-General of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, Your article, "The great Mersey barrage debate" (Technology, December 7) correctly foresees that the environment lobby will firmly oppose this scheme which could have the most severe implications for wildlife, particularly birds, and the Mersey estuary's natural environment generally.

A barrage will alter tidal flow, tidal height, pollutant retention, sediment distribution and erosion in a system that supports many thousands of migratory birds — teal and dunlin from Scandinavia, wigeon from Sweden and pintail from Russia. These birds overwinter on the estuary's inter-tidal habitat, much of which would disappear if the barrage were to be built.

The RSPB believes that the current fashion for barrage schemes will benefit only the major construction firms, and if pursued, will result in the degradation of the estuaries that should be jewels in the crown of UK nature conservation.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PRESTT, Director-General,
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge, Sandy,
Bedfordshire.
December 8.

Old money

From Mr F. E. McWilliam

Sir, I cannot get interested in whether or not we used to call tuppence two dee (letters, November 30; December 6, 9), but I do feel it would make sense to call new pence cents.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. McWILLIAM,
8a Holland Villas Road, W14.

From Mr A. B. de T. Andrews

Sir, The commonly used expression "spending a penny" does not seem to have been abbreviated since the demise of the "d".

Yours sincerely,
A. B. de T. ANDREWS,
Cordwainers, Iddesleigh,
Winkleigh, Devon.

TV's options on covering sport

From the Managing Director of United Racecourses (Holdings) Ltd

Sir, Paul Fox (Media & Marketing, December 13) makes an eloquent appeal to preserve the status quo in the TV coverage of Britain's 10 major sporting events: that these events should continue to be available on a non-exclusive basis to BBC/IBA.

It has to be in the interests of the commercial rights negotiators of both BBC and ITV to depress the level of fees to the event promoter, and we all know that an "exclusive" is a far more valuable commodity.

In the 1980s, when ITV/Channel 4 has had the main contract for horseracing at Epsom, it has been open to the BBC to cover the Ever Ready Derby as well. In practice they have only exercised that right — and paid for it — once.

It seems to this (also apolitical) observer that the BBC can fulfil what it calls its public obligations by tendering an appropriate price in free competition with ITV and cable and satellite operators, when the Derby TV contract comes np in 1992.

I was quoted in *The Times* last week as saying "it is not just a question of (Epsom) getting the maximum amount of money". Potential viewing figures, promotional build-up, and quality of production are other important factors for Epsom's contracts committee to consider in evaluating offers. But it is time for the equal-opportunity safeguard to go, and to let genuine market forces prevail.

We support the new Broadcasting Bill.

Yours faithfully,
TIM NELIGAN,
Managing Director,
United Racecourses (Holdings) Ltd,
Racecourse Paddock,
Epsom, Surrey.
December 14.

Threat to toys

From Dr C. D. Lacey

Sir, Yesterday we received the following notification from Help the Hospices, an organisation which integrates hospice care throughout the country.

From 1st January next, under the Toys (Safety) Regulations 1989, toys sold in the UK must either be made wholly to British Standard 5665, or be made to a type approved by an independent body, *and* must carry an EC mark. It will be illegal to sell toys made by volunteers at bazaars, fetes, hospice shops, etc., unless they too have been made and tested to standards and also carry an EC mark.

If this is one of the advantages of closer association with the European Community, one would like to know more about the disadvantages.

Yours faithfully,
C. D. LACEY (Medical Director),
St Wilfrid's Hospice,
Grosvenor Road,
Chichester, West Sussex.
December 7.

Young smokers

From Mr A. D. C. Turner

Sir, You report (December 12) the Director of the Health Education Authority as having accused the tobacco industry of refusing to co-operate in moves to cut illegal tobacco sales to the under-16s. This allegation is wholly untrue.

The tobacco industry has always supported the concept of discouraging smoking among the under-16s. We believe it to be an adult practice and indeed have successfully spent several million pounds on a trade and public media campaign to raise awareness of the law relating to tobacco sales which we think may have contributed to the acknowledged drop in teenage smoking over recent years.

But we are not police or trading standards officers; neither can we simply cut off tobacco supplies to those retailers who are caught breaking the law, many of whom buy their stock through wholesalers and cash and carry suppliers.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE TURNER,
Tobacco Advisory Council,
Glen House, Stage Place, SW1.
December 13.

Final test

From Mr Julian Nangle

Sir, On Monday morning I drove my daughter from Guildford to her school in Islington, north London, at the end of a weekend she had spent with me. The journey took two hours.

To while away the time I suggested that we play car cricket with cars containing *one* person only counting as runs and those cars with two or more in, counting as a wicket.

I elected to bat and after 35 minutes on the A3, between 7.40 and 8.15 a.m. I have to tell you that I lost only *two wickets* to an uncountable number of runs.

Unless a scheme is introduced making it highly desirable, if not imperative, to have more than one person in a car at any time, apart from emergencies, I predict the country will become choked by its own wealth.

Yours etc.,
JULIAN NANGLE,
Hod House, High Street,
Child Okeford, Dorset.
December 5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 15: Colonel J A D Anderson today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel of The London Scottish, upon relinquishing his appointment as Joint Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

Colonel John Clemence also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Joint Honorary Colonel of The London Scottish Regiment.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 15: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust and President, The Prince's Trust, visited Greenfield Valley Young Enterprise Centre in Greenfield, Clwyd.

His Royal Highness, Chairman, The Prince of Wales Committee, presented the Committee Awards in Mold.

Afterwards The Prince of Wales, Patron, Abbeyfield Society visited an Abbeyfield House in Mold.

Finally His Royal Highness visited Wrexham Technology Park.

Sir John Riddell, Bt, was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales attended a matinee performance of the 1989 Olympia International Show Jumping Championships at the Grand Hall, Olympia, W14.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Army Educational Corps, this morning received Major General Anthony J Trythall on relinquishing the appointment as Colonel Commandant and Major General Denis E Ryan on assuming the appointment.

Birthdays

TODAY: Professor Sir Harold Bailey, former professor of Sanskrit, 90; Mr N.C. Blamey, artist, 75; Sir Michael Carlisle, chairmao, Treot Regional Health Authority, 60; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, science writer, 72; Judge Myrella Cohen, QC, 62; Professor Bernard Crick, author, 60; the Hon Peter Dickinson, author, 62; Mr Joel Garner, cricketer, 37; Mr R.N. Gunn, chairman, The Boots Company, 64; Sir Jasper Hollom, former deputy governor, Bank of England, 72; Lord Margadale, 83; Lord Mottistone, 69; Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, 89; Sir Victor Pritchett, author and critic, 89; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 67; Sir John Thompson, former High Court judge, 82; Mrs Jacqueline Thwaites, principal, Inchbald School of Design, 58; Miss Liv Ullman, actress, 51; Mr W.H.P. Whatley, trades unionist, 67.

TOMORROW: Dame Mary Cartwright, former Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, 89; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 44; Lord de Villiers, 78; Lord Glenamara, CH, 77; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 45; Lord McFadzean, 86; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Australian publishing and broadcasting companies, 52; Sir Leonard Peach, former chief executive NHS Management Board, 57; Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster, 62; Mr Tommy Steele, actor and singer, 53; Professor W.A.C. Stewart, former vice-chancellor, Keele University, 74; Lady Strange, 61.

Alan Webster

A time of waiting in hope

A young man preparing for priesthood in the Sixties expressed the inner feeling of waiting at Advent in stark monosyllables in a eucharistic hymn: "The fields are burnt, the corn long cut, flowers withered, windows shut; But within our hearts, warm delight, Brought by Christ our strength and light".

Today that Advent spirituality is being refreshed from another source — the undamming of the reservoir of women's vocations to the priesthood. As they wait, many identify with the Blessed Virgin Mary, who also waited in insecurity. As She accommodated in her body the growing Child in those last weeks, there were so many questions: When will the Birth happen, and Where, and What will be the Child's destiny, and how intense will be the shared pain?

Until recently most commentaries on the Nativity and most Advent and Christmas ceremonies were ordered by men. Now new insights appear as women begin to take responsibility for worship. Some of the women, who have themselves been mothers, know that pain for the sake of fresh life is not a theory but an inner experienced truth. Light and life and freshness emerge out of what has been hidden. The ultimate joy of new life does not come easily — but perhaps with tearing and pain.

A woman, who will take charge of a parish in the new year, the first in her diocese, dreams of a liturgy which draws on the experience of the Blessed Virgin. Mary shared some of those fears of today's famine-stricken Ethiopian mothers, finding no room or food or inn, pawns of political passions. "Real birth is messy...babies can bite as well as suck...the Church can make birth so clinical..." Her next Christmas will be a pioneering and responsible ministry, partly in a yuppie area, partly on a housing estate without any church building.

While the Synods slowly "progress" the legislation for the ordination of women, the day-to-day life of the Church — praying, worshipping together, teaching and caring — increasingly requires women to work. For parishes and other Christian communities the coming of God in Christ at Christmas links the praying heart of the Church with going to the lonely and sick, volunteering for the local homelessness project, and strengthening the network of practical love. The climax of Christmas when cathedrals, churches and chapels are thronged for Midnight Communion, still depends in Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches (but not Free Church) on male celebrants. But several cathedrals now have women canons and in many churches, Anglican, Free Church and Roman Catholic, the elements will be distributed by women as well as by men.

This Christmas in Southampton there will be nine ordained women working full-time and one part-time — five deacons in the Church of England and four ministers in the Free Churches. The Anglicans work in university and hospital chaplaincies, in the city centre team ministry and in one area of severe deprivation. All these nine women administer the sacrament at baptism as well as conduct marriages and funerals, teaching the young and the not so young, as well as building up the various Christian communities so that they may make the Birth of Christ a blessing in today's secular city.

Each year the proportion of women ministering rises. 1990 will begin with more than 1,000 women out of a total of over 12,000 clergy. There are about 600 stipendiary women deacons and 400 non-stipendiary. The proportion of women now at theological colleges (913 men, 325 women) suggests that in 10 years time the number of women ministers will be much higher, especially as there is evidence that some women are holding back until the ordination of women priests has been authorized.

More important than numbers is the degree of acceptance (or reception) of women in ministry by church people, irrespective of churchmanship. Parishes with women ministers judge for themselves. Discussing women's leadership in a northern parish, a 40-year-old factory worker said: "Something we ought to think about is whether a woman minister has more confidence in lay people — whether she's more likely to let lay people take responsibility. Jean trusts us, and trusts us enough to let us make mistakes. The talents that have come forward are quite amazing. Jobs you thought you could not do you find yourself doing. I'd say we've benefitted from the absence of a traditional vicar."

Anglican women ministers this Christmas know that they share the leadership of Christian communities with women in the other churches. Humanly speaking, it is on women that the life of the Roman Catholic Church depends in certain parts of Central and Sonth America (see Sister Pamela Hussey "Free From Fear, Women in El Salvador's Church", CIIR). In England the understanding that women in ministry are called by God is growingly understood in the Roman Catholic Church when there have been ecumenical relationships. When a woman who had carried a parish through a long interregnum and then had her appointment terminated by an incoming incumbent (a not uncommon experience), it was interesting that she felt that "the Roman Catholic priests in the neighbourhood gave more understanding to the eventual plight of the C of E deaconess than did her own parish priest".

Waiting for the birth through those winter days was the experience of the Blessed Virgin. The growing oumber of women in ministry in the Christian churches leads Christian people to reflect more deeply on the experience of waiting. The traditional Advent themes of judgement and the last things, the great biblical words of the Advent Antiphons, all receive fresh light as the women who minister contribute so much to the work of preparing for Christmas. The Divine is both more Other and more intimate than we had learnt at earlier Christmases.

The author is a former Dean of St Paul's

Sevenoaks School, Kent

Sixth Form Scholarships at Sevenoaks School 1990:
The following awards have been made:

Sackville Awards:
Scholarship: Marie-Claire van der Veen (Rysgaards Skole, Denmark); Katharine Walker (Tonbridge Girls' Grammar School).
Exhibitions: Jamie Cole (Sevenoaks); Philippa Fogarty (Sevenoaks).
Bleyberg Awards for the International Baccalaureate:
Exhibitions: Diana Allen (St Helen & St Katharine, Abingdon); Sarah Castell (Sevenoaks); Kelly Hepher (Sevenoaks); Maya Meeyam (Sevenoaks).
The Worshipful Company of Pipe-makers & Tobacco Blenders Awards:
Scholarships: Steffan Kennett (Sevenoaks); Oscar Tewari (St Christopher's, Bahrain).
Alan Tasmadge Mathematics Scholarship:
Jacky Mak Tze Kei (Tsung Shiu Tim Secondary School, Hong Kong).

Bryanston School

Sixth Form Scholarships
Awards have been made to the following:
Nadia Debbagh (The New English School, Kuwait); Rachel Field (The Godolphin and Latymer School); Rebecca Fryswell (Jersey College); Emily Gwinnell (South Hampstead High School); Emily Holt (Camden School for Girls); Nicholas Jennings (Durham School).

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, Alcalá de Henares, Spain, 1485; John Selden, lawyer and historian, Worthing, 1584; Gebhard von Blücher, field marshal, Rostock, Germany, 1742; Jane Austen, Steventon Rectory, Hampshire, 1775; Wassily Kandinsky, abstract painter, Moscow, 1866; Zoltán Kodály, composer, Kecskemet, Hungary, 1882; Sir John (Jack) Hobbs, Cambridge, 1882; Sir Noel Coward, London, 1899; Margaret Mead, anthropologist, Philadelphia, 1901.

DEATHS: Richard Bright, physician, London, 1858; Wilhelm Grimm, collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1859; Charles Camille Saint-Saëns, composer, Algiers, 1921; Somerset Maugham, Nice, 1965.

The Bostoo Tea Party, 1773.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Naples, 1749; Ludwig van Beethoven, Bonn, 1770; Sir Humphrey Davy, originator of the miners' safety lamp, Penzance, 1778; Joseph Henry, pioneer of electro-magnetism, Albany, New York, 1797; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet, Haverhill, Massachusetts, 1807; Jules de Goncourt, diarist, Paris, 1830; Ford Maddox Ford, novelist and critic, Merton, Surrey, 1873; W L Mackenzie King, prime minister of Canada 1921-26, 1926-30, 1935-48, Berlin, Ontario, 1874.

DEATHS: Simon Bolivar, "Liberator" of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physicist, Largs, Strathclyde, 1907; Sir Bernard Spilsbury, pathologist, London, 1947; Harold Holt, prime minister of Australia 1966-67, drowned off Portsea, Victoria, 1967.

The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothes in the "Kitty Hawk", at Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina, 1903. The closure of the Suez Canal resulted in petrol rationing, 1956.

OBITUARIES

ANDREI SAKHAROV

Heroic voice of the Soviet Union's conscience

Andrei Sakharov who died at his Moscow appartment on December 14, aged 68, was an outstanding Soviet ouclear physicist. But his name will nevertheless live longer io the history of the Soviet Union as one of its most heroic and persuasive dissenters from the brutalities of state tyranny.

Unlike most such political philosophers he had the satisfactioo of seeing the system he criticized crumble away — the reforms he had long called for become official policy — and of being summoned from exile by the General- Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party himself to help him implement a new area in political and economic freedom.

His immense scientific achievements and his Nobel Peace Prize of 1975 notwithstaodiog, Mikhail Gorbachov's telephone plea to him io December 1986 to help him reshape the Soviet Union must have been the most richly rewarding moment in Sakharov's life, and a vindication of years of cruel suffering.

Before he donned the mantle of conscience of the nation, Sakharov had already achieved the highest posiOon io the Soviet Unioo in the field of controlled thermo-ouclear fission, and was for long popularly known as "The Father of the Soviet H-Bomb". It was though a label he personally rejected.

Born in Moscow on May 21, 1921, the soo of Dmitri Sakharov, a teacher of physics, he entered the Faculty of Physics of Moscow University in 1939. Regarded as its most brilliant student, he graduated in 1942 and in 1948 he was awarded the degree of Candidate of Doctor of Science for his work on the cosmic ray theory under Dr Igor E. Tamm in the Lebedev Iostitute of Physics. Then he became engaged in a secret work in the field of the thermo-ouclear reaction. In October 1949 the Soviet Union exploded its first A-bomb, and io 1950 Sakharov and Tamm succeeded in working out a method of an electrical discharge in a plasma located within a magnetic field, a oecessary precoodition for producing an H-bomb.

Three years later Sakharov became a Doctor of Science and a full member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the youngest persoo so elected in its history. He was showered with honours, receiving (in secret) the Stalin Prize, three Orders of Socialist Labour, aod many other awards. He was also given a very high salary and all the attendant material comforts which iocluded a personal bodyguard. In his scientific work he added to his special field of micro-physics a growing interest in macro-physics.

In 1958 Sakharov began to he concerned with social and political issues. He tried (privately) to persuade the Soviet leadership to stop a series of atomic tests, but was unsuccessful. He repeated his interveotions on the subject in 1961 and 1962, again with oo result. Khrushchev was adamant, but in 1963 he agreed to the Test Ban Treaty with the Americans.

Sakharov receiving his honorary degree at Sussex

Sakharov's growing educational and social preoccupations fouod their early expression in his opposition to the draft of the 1958 Educational Reform which was modified after he and his collaborator Zeldovich had written a letter criticizing it. In the early 1960s he played an important role in the struggle against Lyseokoism and helped to release Soviet biology from its doctrinal shackles. For this actioo he incurred a measure of official displeasure.

When he began to show concern about Soviet social and political problems, his scientific status and personal privileges began to be adversely affected, first by being curtailed, and then by being withdrawn.

Io 1966, Sakharov and 24 other Soviet notables addressed the party leadership, to try to prevent the rehabilitation of Stalin at the forthcoming 23rd Party Congress. The idea was dropped.

By then Sakharov's social and political ideas were taking a more definite shape. In 1968 he produced a book, *Progress, Co-existence and Intellectual Freedom*, which before being published in the West circulated in *Samizdat* among his scientist colleagues and iotellectual dissidents in general.

While denouncing Soviet police methods, restrictions of speech and association, he was optimistic about the future, hoping for East-West "convergence" and believing still in the moral speriority of "the socialist course of development". From that point his life was devoted to the struggle against injustice and increased repressioo of the dissidents in the USSR. He became their guiding light and defender, writing open letters against their trial, deportatioo and coofinement in psychiatric hospitals. He protested against the persecution of the author Alexander Solzhenitsyn and made appeals for the rights of the national minorities in the Soviet Union, against anti-semitism and for the rights of the Soviet Jews (and others) to emigrate.

In 1970 together with V. Chalidze aod A. Tverdokhlebov Sakharov founded the Human Rights Committee. In 1972 he appealed to the Supreme Soviet for an amnesty to all political prisoners and the abolitioo of capital punishment. He became increasingly a target of a press campaign and was deounced as "slanderer" of the Soviet State. Both he and his family became objects of persecution.

Undaunted, he cootioued his actions. Although by nature a "liberal" and a "gradualist", he explained that it was necessary "to learn to express one's opinion without considering the reactioo of the masters and without fear for one's life." His international prestige and the conferring on him of the 1975 Nobel Prize (which the Soviet authorities prevented him from going to Oslo to collect) provided him some protection, but eventually the KGB actioo aimed at the liquidation of Soviet dissidents terminated in the deportation of Sakharov to Gorky, where he was to he completely isolated from the world. With the help of his wife, Yelena Bonner who had been able to go to Oslo to collect his Nobel Prize, he managed however to maintain some fragile links with his friends in the Soviet Union and abroad. But his activities were sharply restricted, he was under constant police supervision and subject to all kinds of chicanery.

In November 1981 he and his wife went on hunger strike in a successful effort to persuade the authorities to allow their daughter-in-law to join her husband in the United States. Despite the difficulties of commonicating from Gorky with friends in Moscow, he cootinued to make his views known, making courageous statements in defence of human rights and criticising the Soviet occupatioo of Afghanistan.

Prominent people in many walks of life spoke out in support of the Sakharovs; KGB harassmeot continued, however, and they were denied permission to go abroad for medical treatment. On May 2, 1984 because his wife's heart condition had greatly deteriorated, Dr Sakharov began a hunger strike to draw attention to the authorities' refusal to grant his wife an exit visa, so that she could obtain abroad the treatment denied her in the USSR. Later rumours abounded that he was being forcibly subjected to behaviour-modifying drug therapy.

But io fact his sufferings were nearing their end. In December 1986 the new General-Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachov, perceiving that the future of the USSR could ooly lie in freedom from political, economic and philosophical shackles, telephooed him at his house of exile and asked him to come to Moscow and play his part in Gorbachov's programme of reforms. Sakharov was large-hearted enough oot to refuse. Indeed his own writings and utterances had already spelt out in detail many of the items which had become planks in Mr Gorbachov's campaign of *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

Back io Moscow Sakharov became a whole-hearted supporter of what the Soviet leader was trying to achieve, and spoke out in support of his programme of democratizatioo of Soviet society. He was always adamant that the path of planned evolution and not violent revolution was the only safe course.

Sakharov was reinstated in the honours of which he had been stripped in his years of disgrace. He was re-elecled to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and elected to the Congress of Peoples' Deputies. Outside his own country, earlier this year he had the honorary degree of Doctor of science conferred on him by Sussex University.

Though latterly in failing health he lived to see much of what he had fought aod suffered for being translated into reality. His wife Yelena, partoer in his darkest hours of tribulation, survives him.

Marriages

Mr C.P.N. Filmer and Miss A.C.S. Kirwan-Taylor
The marriage took place yesterday at St George's, Hanover Square, of Mr Charles Filmer, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter Filmer, of Sturminster Newton, Dorset, io Miss Antonia Kirwan-Taylor, elder daughter of Mr Peter Kirwan-Taylor, of New York, and of Viscountess Lymington, of Loodon, SW1. The Rev W.M. Atkins officiated.

The bride, who was given io marriage by her father, was attended by Dorelia Adeane, Grania Chesterton, Katherine Taylor, Lara Nicholas, Caitlin Imrie, Willow Corbett Winder, Ned Corbett Winder, Max Imrie, Angus Buchanan and Blaize Bellville. Mr Anthony Clay was best man.

A receptioo was held at Spencer House, St James's Place, SW1, and the honeymoon will be spent in the US

Mr J.G. Pélissier and Miss L.M. Horgan
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 9, at Farm Street Church, W1, of Mr Jaudy Pélissier and Miss Lucy Horgan. Father Wilfred Tighe officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Kate Horgan, Miss Emily Horgan, Susannah Cunningham and William Measham. Mr Charles Hayward was best man.

A reception was held at 30 Pavilion Road, and the honeymoon will be spent in Kenya.

Latest wills

Mr Simon Heller, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, who became a world authority on nuts, and who, in 1948 acquired Kenyon, Son & Craven, then a small sweet manufacturer in Rotherham, which he made famous for KP nuts and was acquired by United Biscuits in 1968, left estate valued at £3,838,888.

Lady Ann Mary Grace Boult, of London N6, left estate valued at £314,162 net.

Major-General Philip Sidney Whitcombe, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, one of the last serving Old Contemptibles, a Friend of Salisbury Cathedral, left estate valued at £163,085 net.

Dulcie Freda Glowacki, of Coventry, West Midlands, left estate valued at £435,696 oet. She left £150,000 to the Roman Catholic Church in Poland and the residue to the Roman Catholic Church in Coventry, both bequests for the training of priests.

Mr Derek Heron Simmons, of Paignton, Devon, left estate valued at £1,367,667 net.

Other wills include (net, before tax paid):

Mr Gordon Farrar Chippindale, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire ..... £517,081.

Mr David Robert Freemantle, of Twickenham, west London ..... £689,657.

Mr William Thomas Good, of Robertsbrige, East Sussex ..... £783,910.

Mrs Sima Elizabeth Kriegsman, of Tracey Avenue, London NW2 ..... £567,902.

Mrs Sheila Mary Leigh, of Mollington, Cheshire £608,556.

Mr Arthur Neville Ward, of Great Dunmow, Essex £647,996.

Thanksgiving service

Major General C.M.M. Man
A thanksgiving service for the life of Major General C.M.M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, MA, will be held in the Regimental Chapel of The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) in St Paul's Cathedral at 11 am on Jan 12, 1990. Tickets will not be required and none will be issued.

Inner Temple

Major scholarships 1989
Scholarships have been awarded to: Andrew J Hitchmough, Southampton University; Jonathan M Morris, Worcester College, Oxford; Kim Preston, Birmingham University and City of London University; Michael Rawlinson, University of Manchester.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon A.J. Aylmer and Miss B.R. Parker
The engagement is announced between Anthony Julian, only son of Lord and Lady Aylmer, of 42 Brampton Grove, London, NW4, and Belinda Rosemary, only daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Parker, of The Hays, Ramsden, Oxford.

Mr M.D.R. Beasley and Miss M.J. Davies
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs G.A. Beasley, of Braithwaite, Cumbria, and Margaret, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs G.S. Davies, of Greenford, Middlesex.

Mr G.L. Cleaver and Miss A.H. Rodgers
The engagement is announced between George, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Cleaver, of Prestbury, Gloucestershire, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mr Brian Rodgers, of Goudhurst, Kent, and Mrs Jenny Rodgers, of Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

Mr A.R. Holden and Third Officer N.S. Barlow, WRNS
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Major and Mrs C.B. Holden, of Woking, Surrey, and Nicola, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Barlow, of Hale, Cheshire.

Mr D.N.C. Gillies and Miss J.M.I. Rebeiro
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs N.C. Gillies, of Aberdeen, and Jacinta, younger daughter of Mrs P. Rebeiro and the late Mr D. Rebeiro, of Chertsey, Surrey.

Flt Lt R.A.H. Watson and Miss J.A. Simmons
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs F.A.H. Watson, of Danehill, Sussex, and Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E.A. Simmons, of Lindfield, Sussex.

Mr S.J. Rayner and Miss C.L. Cruickshank
The engagement is announced between Spencer J. Rayner, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, and Catrina L. Cruickshank, of Radlett, Herts.

Mr S. Singh and Miss F. Mathers
The engagement is announced between Surinder Singh, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S. Singh, Strathaven, Scotland, and Fiona Mathers, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Mathers, Mosspark, Glasgow.

Captain N.Q.J. Martyn and Miss C.M. Davidson
The engagement is announced between Nick Martyn, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Iofantry, son of Mr Richard Martyn, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and Mrs Trevor Vickery, of Newmarket, Ootario, aod Catriona, daughter of the late John A. Davidson, CBE, and of Mrs Marilyn Davidson, Station House, Buchlyvie, Stirlingshire.

Mr G.M. Phillips and Miss L.H.M. Mendoza
The engagement is announced between Gary, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael A. Phillips, of Kingsbury, London, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alain Mendoza, of Highgate, London.

Mr N.S. Holker and Miss S.M. Redden
At long last the engagement is nnnounced betweeo Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Holker, of Epsom, Surrey, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Redden, of Orpington, Kent.

Mr A.J. Males and Miss S.A. Vickers
The engagement is announced between Sub-Lt John Males, RN, son of Dr and Mrs R.J. Males, of Teignmouth, Devon, and Third Officer Sarah Vickers, WRNS, daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Vickers, of Plymouth.

Mr G. Taylor and Miss F. Bennett
The engagement is announced between Giles, only son of Col and Mrs G.A.Taylor, of Ford, Wiltshire, and Fiona, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs I.R. Bennett, of Stock, Essex.

Mr R.St J. Wakerley and Miss S.A. Marsh
The engagement is announced between Richard St John, son of Mr and Mrs David Wakerley, of Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, and Sally Anne, daughter of the late Dr Geoffrey Marsh, of Eccleston Park, Prescot, and of Mrs W.M. Marsh, now of Lytham, Lancashire.

Mr J.M. Devine and Miss P.M. Gibbens
The engagement is announced between Joseph, youngest son of Mrs K.T. Devine and the late Mr B.W. Devine, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Penelope, elder daughter of Mr B.J. Gibbens, of Wimbledon, and Mrs S.M. Gibbens, of Godalming, Surrey.

NICO GARDENER

Outstanding contribution to British bridge

Nico Gardeoer (oé Goldinger), a champion British bridge player of the post-war years and the country's leading bridge teacher, died on December 10. The bridge school he founded in 1952 continues to this day, oow run by his daughter.

Gardener was born on January 27, 1906, in Riga and grew up in unsettled times. The family was split up and he first went to Moscow, and then to Berlin at whose university he developed his linguistic skills; but in 1936 prudence dictated removal to England, which he made his home.

No sooner was World War II over than Gardener rose to the highest bridge ranks. He won the Gold Cup (the country's top team event) in 1946 and frequently thereafter. He represented Britain oine times, twice winning the European Championships.

In 1952 he founded the London School of Bridge and began to make a name for himself as teacher, writer and lecturer. His *Card Play Technique* and *Bridge for Beginners*, both co-authored with the late Victor Mollo, are still considered classics. The former in particular was inspired by the proposition familiar to champions in any field but quite baffling to amateurs, namely that there is no such thing as luck. "To be lucky," wrote the authors, "is an art which can be mastered like any other."

The 1950s and 1960s saw the development of bridge cruises. These were especially suited to Gardener who could lecture all day and then while away the tropical nights with ballroom dancing, at which he was proficient. He was immaculate in dress, and ocean liners were sufficieotly capacious for the astonishingly large number of suitcases with which he habitually travelled. But there was oo confusion in Gardener's bridge-playing mind.

Possibly no popular game is so characterised hy ignorance and incompetence — and by their progeny, rage and frustration — and the pioneers of efficient bridge teaching methods are to he justly commended.

The bridge world will regret the passing of yet another of those exceptionally gifted characters who originated East of the Rhine but who have so greatly enriched the British game. Gardener's wife, Patricia Hyman, died a few years ago and he leaves a daughter, Nicola Smith, herself winner of two world championships in this present decade.

RICHARD PHELPS

Richard Phelps, waterman to the Thames Rowing Club of Putney from 1931 to 1966, died on December 13 aged 92. "Dick" was the last member of his generation in Britain's best-known family of rowing professionals.

Richard William Phelps was born oo November 3 1897, one of seven children; three of his brothers also became long serving watermen to well respected clubs. Tom was at London Rowing Club, Jack at Winchester College and Bill served at the University of London Rowing Club.

The Phelps family have scored more wins than any other in the oldest regular boat race io Britain or the world, the Doggett's Coat and Badge. This sculling race originally for apprentice watermen on the Thames has been rowed through the centre of Londoo since 1715. Dick won this race in 1923 and a total of nine other wins were recorded by his father, uncle, great uncle, his brothers, and his cousins.

Dick was first employed in boat building by his uncle, "Bossie" Phelps, and he made his first visit to Henley Regatta in 1913 with his employer who was waterman and coach to some of the scullers in the Diamond Sculls. He remained in boat building until his appointment to Thames Rowing Club in 1931.

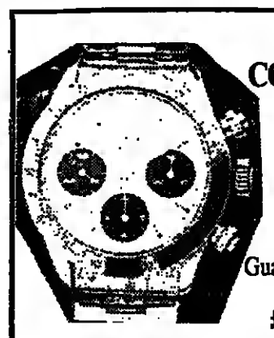
The following year the club crews were particularly successful and after winning the Stewards' Cup at Henley the coxless four was selected to represent Great Britain at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Dick was waterman to the team and travelled with the boats. In Los Angeles the club four rowing as substitute from Londoo Rowing Club won a gold medal as did the coxless pair.

Io 1936 Dick was again appointed waterman to the Olympic team and he had the satisfactioo of being present in Berlin when the double sculls partnership of Beresford and Southwood of Thames Rowing Club snatched the gold medals from the host nation in a magnificent final spurt past Hitler's box.

In the years after the Second World War Dick was in the forefront of the effort to revive the sport as were many of his crews from Thames. He was watermen to many more national rowing teams including the 1948 Olympic Games the Commonwealth Games of 1954 and 1958 and the European Championships of 1959. In 1953 he was appointed a Queen's Waterman and was seen on many occasioos in his fine regalia and in the crew of the Royal Barge.

In 1966 he retired from his post at Thames, and was elected an honorary life member of the club. He is survived by his son, Michael.

ROLEX COSMOGRAPHS



URGENTLY WANTED FOR CASH!

Guaranteed minimum paid:

£700 for Steel Models

£4,500+ for Gold Models

Any condition working or not. High prices paid for all other Chronograph watches. Other Rolex's also wanted old or new, and all fine makes including Patek, Cartier, Vacheron, Jaeger-Le-Coultre Etc.

For the best price for your timepiece contact the experts.

Second Time Round Ltd of London
TEL: 01-530 1553 ANYTIME
INCLUDING SUNDAYS
WE TRAVEL NATIONWIDE
DISTANCE NO OBJECT

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

But you, my friends, keep on building yourselves up on your most sacred faith. Pray in the power of the Spirit. Jude verse 20.

BIRTHS

ALTENDORFF - On December 14th to Sharon and Andrew, a son, Andrew Johnathan.

CONNER - On December 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Sandy (née Berry) and Laurie, a daughter, Jessica.

CRISWELL - On December 13th 1989, to Clare (née Whiteside) and John, a son, James Alexander.

DAVEY - On Thursday December 7th 1989, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, to Vanessa (née Pinchbeck) and Geoffrey, a son, Jack Alexander Peter.

HOAR - On December 9th, to Jacqueline (née Tindal) and John, a son, Joseph, a brother for Francis, Tom, Edmund, William, Jack and Nicolas.

MacCAW - On December 10th 1989, to Charlotte and Tim, a son, Alexander Nicholas. Many thanks to staff at St George's Hospital, Tooting.

McCORQUODDALE - On December 14th 1989, in Sarah and Neil, a daughter.

NORTH - On Friday December 15th, to Nancy, wife of William, a daughter, Louisa Alice Jessie.

POWERS - On December 10th, to Susanna and Alan, a son, William.

WRIGHT - On Thursday December 14th 1989, to Victoria (née Fullerton) and Maxwell, a daughter, Charlotte Mary.

MARRIAGES

TAYLOR:MAITLAND - The marriage took place at Melrose on December 15th between Sir George Taylor, Belhaven House, Dunbar, East Lothian and Mrs June Maitland, The Glen, Peebleshire.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

BOSS:GLOVER. At the Church of St Francis, Patta Wood on 16th December 1939 Ronald (then serving with the City of London Yeomanry Regiment) to Dorothy. They now live in Alfriston.

BASKINS:BROOKE LEGRATT - On December 16th 1939, at Marylebone, London, John to Pamela.

JONES:WILSON - On December 16th 1939, at Moseley, Birmingham, James Watford to Rosamund Mary. Now at Hanley-in-Arden, Warwickshire.

MASON:KING - On December 16th, 1939, at The Oratory, Birmingham, Hugh Walter to Angela Mary of Hafod, Garregog, Nantmor, Caernarfon.

DEATHS

ARCHDALE - On December 14th, peacefully at home, Vita, aged 92. Widow of Om Archdale. Funeral on Wednesday December 20th at 2 pm. Family flowers only.

BEARD - On December 14th 1989, peacefully, Brigadier William Horace Gladstone Beard O.B.E., aged 91. Dearly loved husband of Irene and father to Richard. Service at St George's United Reformed Church, Bexhill-on-Sea, Wednesday December 20th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired in Guide Dogs for the Blind, 43 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London, W5.

DURMAN - On December 13th, Leslie John Rodgers, peacefully at home. Private funeral. No flowers or letters please.

GUNN - On December 13th 1989, at Englewood Hospital, New Jersey, Eileen (née Gwyther), dearest sister of Freda Oliver.

HOLLINGHURST - On December 11th 1989, Doris Evelyn M.B.E., at home in Hythe, Kent. Funeral Service to be held at St Leonard's Church, Hythe, Kent, at 11 am Wednesday December 20th. Donations to R.N.L.I.

HUTSON - On December 12th 1989, suddenly at home, Henry Neil, aged 67, beloved son of Maj. Gen. and Mrs HPW Hutson.

MOLONY - On December 14th, at Leicester Royal Infirmary, Timothy, of Wymondham, Leicestershire, aged 70 years. Irrepressible husband of Stella and adored father of Trisch, Will, Marty and Danny. Private funeral service on Wednesday December 20th, followed by burial at Wymondham. Family flowers only please, but donations in Tim's name to The Injured Jockeys' Fund would be greatly appreciated c/o Fords of Oakham, 8 Church Street, Oakham, Leics., LE15 6AA.

OSWALD - On December 14th, John Wheen (Jock), after a long illness at Itton, Chepstow. Much loved husband of Elizabeth and father of Catherine and Richard. Funeral Service Friday December 22nd at St Deinol's Church, Itton, 11.45 am. Donations to St David's Cancer Foundation or Itton Church Restoration Fund may be sent to Philip Blatchly & Son Ltd., 5 Station Road, Chepstow (4539) or Netherend 345.

PERRY - On Tuesday December 12th 1989, William Frederick, retired Times Compositor, passed away at Harold Wood Hospital. Beloved husband of Ellen, sadly missed. Cremation to be at South East Essex Crematorium on Wednesday December 20th 1989 at 1 pm.

PRICE - On December 14th 1989, peacefully at a Bournemouth nursing home, Dr. Godfrey Charles (Bill) Price, much loved father of Christopher, David, Jackie and Charles and stepfather to Geoffrey and a devoted grandfather. Funeral Service and interment at All Saints' Church, Branksome Park, on Friday December 22nd at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations for the N.S.P.C.C. may be sent to Deric-Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth.

RIVIERE - On December 15th, peacefully in hospital, Diana Briton. Beloved only daughter of the late Evelyn and Joan. A dearly loved and loving friend. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium Wednesday December 20th at 3 pm. Memorial Service to be held at a later date. Enquiries to W. Garstin & Son, tel: 01-935 4868.

ROGERS - On December 12th, at home, Charles William Mitward, aged 85, of Lawshall, Suffolk. Husband of Ruth and father of Henry and Olivia. Funeral at All Saints, Lawshall, at 2 pm Thursday December 21st. Family flowers only.

SMAIL - On December 14th, peacefully after a short illness, Mary Millicent, aged 82, mother of Simon. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Melcombe Bingham, on Thursday December 21st at 2 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Cancer Research.

TAYLOR - On December 14th 1989, J.A.G. (Joe), in his 92nd year. Loving and loved husband of Binkie, widower of Dorothy and Lena, loving father of John and Jean, grandfather and great-grandfather. Late Senior Partner of R. Watson and Sons, Founder Member and late Chairman of the BBC Choral Society. Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Brighton, on Wednesday December 20th at 1.45 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to St Bartholomew's Restoration Fund or Cancer Care, c/o Hanningtons Funeral Directors Ltd., 4/6 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex. tel: (0273) 778733.

WILSON - On December 7th 1989, peacefully, Lady Jacqueline Primrose B.Sc., daughter of J.G. and M.F. Robinson, widow of the late Sir Ian Wilson K.C.M.G., former speaker of the Federal Assembly of Rhodesia's and Nyasaland and beloved mother of Thelma-May and Alexander. Cremation took place at Yeovil on December 15th 1989. A fine lady loved by all who knew her. Rest in peace Mum.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BETTS - In loving memory of my dearest husband, Lt. Col. Frank Betts MBE., Coldstream Guards, December 16th 1985. Greatly missed, love unchanging, Jane.

COWARD - Sir Noel, remembered with love on his birthday. Joyce, Joan and Graham.

DAVENPORT - Darling Anne - the missing never stops. My love for always - Denis. Remembering with dearest love, December 17th three years ago - Guy and Philippa.

FANTONI - Peter, 1906-1986. Painter in Watercolours.

MELLALIEU - Yvonne, aged 18, our adored and only daughter, tragically taken from us December 16th, 1980.

MESTON - Dougall, 2nd Baron. This day on his birthday (December 17th). Always, remembered and sadly missed by his family.

PIGGOTT - Dr. Charles Antony Piggott. Love unchanging. Marjorie, Reginald and Mary-Anne.

PIGGOTT - Charles Antony Piggott M.A., PhD., remembered, a brilliant and gifted young man: Kelvinside Academy, Edinburgh University, The City of London.

WATTS - John Patricia. Always and especially loved. Avery.

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone.

For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00 pm Mon-Thurs, 4pm Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Sat for Monday's paper.

01 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BARONY OF ALFORD

Mr. Harry A. Hauser of Eastington Hall, Worcestershire has acceded to the Rule of the Baron of Alford which was granted by King William III, on the 3rd of February 1702. Burke's Peerage has verified Mr and Mrs Hauser's right to be addressed as Baron and Baroness Hauser of Alford.

COTTERILLS. Please contact Clive (02-876 9303) Clare (043 375389) about Tollie's story.

Mr & Mrs Neil Ramsay are not sending cards. They send their friends best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

BARNELLS John. Congratulations on reaching your half century. Love Charlotte, Helen, and Mary.

WHITE BURBERRY is about to go through the wood. Ring James Rogers on 870 4500 for best advice at continuously plus.

We fund one third of all research into the prevention and cure of cancer in the UK.
Help us by sending a donation or making a legacy to: (Dept T/M/12) 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR.
Cancer Research Campaign
Fighting cancer on all fronts.

GREATER LONDON FUND FOR THE BLIND
Thousands of people can't read this ad., because they're blind. We can't give them back their sight; but we can help in many other ways. So please, help us to see to their needs, by providing a donation, comment or legacy. Greater London Fund for the Blind, Room 8A, Freepost 3, London, W1E 1EZ. Tel: 01-262 0191 or 01-728 1677. Regd. No. 240566.

BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND FUND
IF YOU'RE BLIND A RADIO CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.
But many blind people simply cannot afford to buy a radio of their own. So they miss out on a world of entertainment, news and current affairs programmes.
Our aim is to supply radios or radio/cassette recorders to all registered blind people over the age of eight who can be used.
We are a totally independent charity, operating entirely on private contributions, donations and legacies.
For details of The Fund please contact Mrs M. Grainger at the:-
BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND FUND
34 NEW ROAD, CHATHAM, KENT ME4 4QR. TELEPHONE: (0634) 832501
KEEPING THE BLIND IN TOUCH WITH THE WORLD

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD. Recommend that before replying to any advertisement in these columns, please take all normal precautionary measures. as Times Newspapers Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any action or loss resulting from an advertisement carried in these columns.

5 INCH TV/radio/cassette one year old - £50ono. Tel: Chris 0772 717607

APPLE MACINTOSH SE A5, new all manuals, software, unused present. £1650. 01 666 1880

AVINELEY Silver Jubilee (QE11) Commemoration plate £30. Tel: 0690 676597

BARONS COURT Female 20-25 to share flat, own room or 2 bdrm £55pw excl 01 385-6485

BICYCLE 13GS (1600cc) Beautiful white wheels. Collectors item only £1400. Tel: 01 693 6638

BRAVIS Barrier electric wheelchair, with accessories, good cond. £2000ono. 0707 55709

CAMERA Olympus Quito. flash, telephoto, wide angle, tripod, filters. £260 021 475 1114

CELLO 3/4 size plus bow and canvas case excellent condition £260.

COMPUTER Commodore 64 and datassette unit, software, vgc. £180 ono. Tel: 0798 880288

CONGRATS to C K Man (Lewisham borough) & K Y Wong (Brighton Poly) on their recent marriage.

DICTIONARY, 20th binding 2600 pgs, new still packed, cost £65, bargain £20ono. 0476 66730

DISCS 25 3 1/2" 135 tpi (1k byte) disc for sale £20. 54, Clarence Rd, Birmingham B13 9LH

GEOFFREY Winter Broadcers Tunglepatrick, wishes all his friends a Merry Christmas.

HAPPY birthday darling. Love always Mel. Enjoy last night!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all friends. See you in The George, 23rd. Rita.

HAPPY XMAS Region Courtiours and Modern Languages of Coventry Polytechnic St Campion!

HERMES! Yes the Tiger, canada forever. love mel.

HONDA CRX 1.5i 84B, red, immaculate, T+T, £4995, 0493 600611 ex 496

JAMES O'LEARY. Very best wishes from Julian, Mark, Tony, Karen, Yvonne, Ted.

JIM - Happy Xmas and New Year. I'll love you forever. Wendy xxxx

KAREN, love you as much, have a great christmas, love Sharon.

MEDICAL STUDENT seeks innovative elective. Any assistance grateful. 01 749 8087

MERRY CHRISTMAS - Mum, Daddy, Simon, Joanna, Sarah & Dean, love Susan.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all my buddies, lots of love. Tracy Gatford/Southampton.

PADDINGTON, one down 76 to go. Happy Anniversary. All my love. Wicky.

PETER - Happy 22nd Birthday for tomorrow. Much love from Helen, Chaguers and Tipper.

PHILIPS rechargeable walkman with graphic equaliser only £160ono. Chris 0772 717607

PIANO, mahogany, upright, tuned to concert-pitch, with stool, £360 ono, 0733 256246

PIPPA, I only have eyes for you. love & stuef. T.C.

ROOM available Central Oxford, phone Oxford 249034 for details. Six month lease.

SECOND HAND Commodore 64, printer, monitor. Excellent condition, cost £1000, sacrifice £400. call 0222 461083

STEPHEN JOHNSTON-BIRDS. Happy 18th Birthday from all of the family.

TARRISH Clifford-Banks wishes all her friends a very Happy Christmas.

"THE Boys are back" Great Savage Band 0334 73251.

THERMLAB GRANDEUR! Another beautiful year - only 99 to go! Love, Kieran. CPH.

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

TONY, Happy 19th birthday. All my love Rachel xx. P.S. Have you'ns underneath.

TOWNSEND, Pete and Wilma enjoy Austria. Nik.

TWO plastic injection moulding machines for sale Tel: 07069 30293

U2 TICKETS: New Year's Eve, Point Depot, Dublin: £16; Tel: 0506 20882.

VOLVO 122/Amazon wanted. MOT. Tax. Good Condition. Contact Jo - 02215 5816.

WANTED: Dental public health clerk/2. 2nd ed. Please! Please! cash 1 swop. Tel: 01 666 0187

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 3rd birthday Lizzie. Welcome to the new granddaughter Amy Louise born on 4th December.

JACK GEMMIL Congratulations on your 30th Birthday. From Jill and Graham.

LOUIS TOWN 88 of the best, for the best. Loads of love. Diana, Harry and the mob.

SERVICES

ANCESTORS Economically Traced. Ask the experts. Send details for free estimate to: Ancestorama, Northgate, Canterbury CT1 1BA, (CT1) or telephone 0227 462618.

AT EASTE. An introduction Agency that understands how much you hate the thought of going to see them... Honestly, only desperate people go to agencies, don't they?..Wrong!! We are Sara Eden Introductions, where attractive, intelligent, business & professional people come to be introduced to people just like themselves. Whether 0753 830 380 it could change your life.

FACING a dull winter? Get out & about. Explore Britain. Make new friends through Heritage Explorer. Singles, couples and families of all ages. Sensible fees. Info. on 061 941 7514.

WHEN in London rent a video, TV/vcr 6nt, week, weekend delivery Tops TV. 01 720 4469

WANTED

TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment.

A.M. BALDWIN & SONS LTD Est. 1872. Coins and medals Collections or books bought for cash. Adelphi Terrace, London, WC2N 6BJ. Tel: 01-930 6672.

COMFORTABLE house with pool and telephone for July and August for respectable middle aged couple, no Children. References available. Tel 01 722 7678 from Monday am.

FOR SALE

ALL best seats. London theatres, also Stratford. All major credit cards tel: 01-287 5452/3/4.

ALL TICKETS Phantom, Miss Saigon, Awards, all events and sports. Tel. 01-437 4245 or 01-287 6824/26.

BILLIARDS Table, 1930's, full size, excellent condition with accessories. Cost £1,800, sacrifice £4,500 ono. Tel: (0403) 87230.

BITESIZE. 5ft x 6ft. Lighting, locks. Suit collector or dealer. Cost £880 accept £430 ono. See Henley. Tel: (0344) 423117 (Day) or (0491) 63647 (Eves).

FRIENDS/FRENEMIES, Cockers. Can you buy cheaper? Delivered today 01-229 1947/8468

LOVELY Pastel mink jacket, size 14, 16th 28in, valued £1400 accept £850. Tel: 0341 422877

FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment.

GEORG JENSEN
Silver Jewellery
THE STONE GALLERY
Burford, Oxon
099 382 3302

MINK Coat pastel, ¾ length, small/medium, excellent condition. £1,000. 0229230 646.

MINK Coat Kelinor, "white", almost new, size 16, length 44" £950 Epsom/ring 01-428 1690.

MINK COAT Full Length. Unwanted gift. £1,500. Tel: 02890 723682.

OLD & NEW York. French & Pendant mirror Fireplaces, floor tiles, stone troughs, cobble setts, etc. Nationwide deliveries. Tel: (0869) 880059 (Wilts)

THE TIMES 1791-1989. Other titles available. Ready for presentation. - also "Sundays" £17.50. Remember When. 01-688 6325/6324.

THIS XMAS give an original newspaper dated the day they were born. £16 (+ free 1880's Times). (0492) 531195.

WEDGEWOOD Green Asia part dinner service, 34 pieces. Value £700 new, offers over £350. Tel: (0273) 475843.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

Limited Edition
Ceramic decanter.
50 yrs old.
Dalmore
Singlemalt whisky
Distilled 1926.
£3,000.
041- 638 6957.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BECHSTEIN Grand, 6ft. Beautiful tone & case. £7,500. Tel: 01-431 3104 or 0831-423201.

BROADWOOD 1.30262 Upright Piano. Good condition. A musical instrument. £600. Tel (0277) 840403.

BROADWOOD Grand piano. Rosewood case. 1890. Overstrung. Offers over £750. Tel: (0273) 476983.

STEINWAY Model O Grand 1936. Recently fully reconditioned. Wonderful piano. £4,900 ono. 01 736 6882.

STEINWAY Grand Piano, Model O (1930) for sale. West Midlands. Details telephone (021) 3594491.

THE PIANO WORKSHOP sells new, restored & digital pianos, hire with purchase option, coloured choices. 30A Highgate Road, NW5. Free catalogue. Tel 01-267 7671.

"WE'RE looking for a piano..' A baby grand to Foster If you would like your piano great a fairly long term, comfortable and caring home (no little sticky fingers) we would like to hear from you. Tel: 0844 237250

FOR SALE

REGRET TO ANNOUNCE
CLOSING DOWN SALE
RETIRING AFTER 35 YEARS IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE

ORIENTAL CARPETS AND RUGS
70% to 75% REDUCTIONS
ALL STOCK MUST BE CLEARED

OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9.30am to 7pm
SUNDAY 11am to 4pm

SAMAD'S LTD.
33a KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON SW1X 7NL
NEAR HYDE PARK CORNER.
Tel: 01-235 5712

WHY PAY LONDON PRICES?
Come to tetbury for the best of modern british
AT TALBOT FINE ART

Paintings by Sarah Mann, Jack Millar, Diedre Dimes, Roger Tolson, Peter Morrell, Donald McIntyre, Eileen Agar, John Cunningham, Graham Giles, Harold Harvey, Harold Knight. Drawing by Dame Laura Knight. Sculpture by Catarina Porter, Stephen Hitchin, Geraldine Knight. Designer Furniture by graduates of the John Makepeace school. Over 100 works on view. For that special present that is also an investment visit Talbot Fine Art, 24 Church St, Tetbury, Glos. or

RING (0666) 504577
Open every day till Christmas.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD. reserves the right to refuse any advertisement put forward for publication in these columns. The use of a Box number is recommended when advertising. Before replying to any advertisement in these columns, please take all normal precautions and make enquiries, as Times Newspapers Ltd cannot be held responsible for any action or loss resulting from an advertisement carried in these columns.

ARE you single? Would you like to go skiing? Then come and join Club Plus One at their skiing holiday - 5th Jan 1990 - Austrian Tyrol - Cost £299 + optional ski pack. Ring now on 01-376 0319 (24 hrs). ATOL 2618.

DRAWING DOWN THE MOON
The introduction service for thinking people.
"... an agency people rave about ..." - Cosmopolitan
"... a partner for life - that is what Drawing Down the Moon comes to." - Financial Times
"An upmarket, personalised service for the busy professional" - The Times
"... attractive men and women from a cross-section of professions" - London Evening Standard
For a friendly consultation ring:
01-937 8880, 938 2151
Established 1984

YOUR NEXT CHRISTMAS NEEDN'T BE A LONELY AFFAIR
Call Jennifer Wills at Matches
01-287 0935

ATTRACTIVE intelligent, non-smoking oriental gentleman, a very young 35 seeks female companionship. Enjoys a healthy lifestyle, travel, jogging, badminton. Eating out. Theatre and Cinema. London area. Reply to BOX E74

DIVORCED male 44, driving Audi around Europe to Spain. February, to start new life and hopefully small business. Experience of running own small UK company (branch). Needs to do something completely different. Talented photographer. Also keen on books, music, clothes but has open mind. Has some capital. Seeks female travelling companion (to pay own accommodation) and possible partner to new venture. Are you 35-45, intelligent, articulate, no-fear, passing a change? Reply to BOX A09

ELIGIBLE Prof man (35) seeks elegant prof lady to share London life. Reply to BOX F85

HAPPY CHRISTMAS? Why not contact Heather Jaster/Marriage Bureau, 124, New Bond St, W1. 01-629 9634

ITALIAN gentleman, aged 47, living in sunny Florida desires to find a nice english woman preferably to be 50's for marriage. No children please. I neither drink, smoke or take drugs. I live near the ocean. I own a business & would like someone with me to build it up. Arriving in London on January 9, 1990. Please write & send your address & recent photograph along with any thing you would like to ask me. Anthony Cappella, 1400 St. Charles Pl. 322, Pembroke Pines, Florida 33026, USA

JAMES INTRODUCTION Bureau Professional and nationwide Est 1962 Member ABTA Free brochure Tel: (0564) 82515 8 Gaskell Avenue, Knowlefed, Cheshire.

LOVE is just a phone call away so don't delay, ring us now and you'll see how we can help you find that special person - someone to share your life. Our confidential service can help you meet that kindred spirit, the discerning person you've been looking for (and who's been looking for you). Phone us today, for tomorrow you could be meeting that perfect partner, that person to share your dreams. 01-355 2205 Love in Your Life, Suite 2, 101 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9AA

RETIRED Widower, tall, active seeks slim, elegant lady, non-smoker for companionship at home and holidays to warm climates, walking, swimming, sightseeing. London/Surrey. Reply to BOX B57.

SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES - Events & introductions for attractive people. Just like you! Interested? Call 01-736 1421.

STYLISH, vivacious, well educated lady, has much of offer the right man circa 50 Preferably Midlands. Reply to BOX B49.

THE ULTIMATE in small, made-to-measure marriage bureaux' (S.Tel.) Est. 1960 Katharine Allen, 5 Cork Street, London W1X 1HA. Tel: 01-404 4707

WARM, attractive, professional lady, 33, seeks outgoing, humorous male with similar interests in travel, walking and cultural activities. Photo please. Reply to BOX C61.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

DATELINE GOLD
A new service from the world's largest, longest established and most successful computer dating agency. Dateline Gold is not a dating service - we specialise in personal and selective introductions between successful, confident, attractive and highly articulate clients seeking lasting relationships. Wherever you live our vast membership should be able to provide a unique and superior service for an affordable fee.
For further information or to discuss your requirements please ring Catherine on
01-937 9864
or write to:
23 Abingdon Road
Kensington
London W8 6AH

ISN'T IT TIME YOU PUT YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER?
Matchmakers Introductions
01-458 0246
Member WAIL

TWO'S COMPANY
If you're seriously looking for that elusive long-term relationship, Two's Company can introduce you to people who are seeking the same; have similar values, a complimentary lifestyle, and like you, are prepared to do something about it.
Ring us on 01-323 3435 or write to: 92, New Cavendish Street, London, W1M 7FA.

WHO can cope with a lively female mature East Anglian widow, own car, driver requiring friendly non-smoking, driver escort for theatre, dress circle, occasional outings and quiet evenings. If you can? Send details with recent photo. Reply to BOX E54

FOR HER

BLUE FOX FUR COAT
Full length with hood.
Only worn twice.
Offers in the region of £1,500.
Reply to BOX G02

FLATSHARE

BATTERSEA Prof reg'd to share lge hse. All amenities. £275 pcm + bills. 01-228 8902.

DOCKLANDS E6. M/F share hse incl. 2 bed hse, gdn, parking. £256 pw. 01-476 4863 (H).

DOCKLANDS Surrey Quays, own room in lux mod house. Gdn, parking, gr tube/ bus. £65 pw incl. Tel: 01-252 0661.

FULHAM. Lovely lge quiet bedsit in architects mod hse nr bus/tube. C.H. Sep K/D. Bath. Suit glass well onto gdn. N/S. F. £90 pw incl. 01-736 9744.

MEVERN SQ SW5. 2 girls to share balcony flat, dble rm for 1 considerd. 5 mins Tube. £43.00 (2 share) or £65pw excl. Tel: 01 373 3108 (Eves/wk/ends).

WLE from 1 Jan, m/f to share ground floor gdn flat, all machines, own sit room, conv tube & bus. £260pcm. Tel: 01-829 1313 day, /740 0719 eve

WEST KEN Queen's Club Gdns. M/F own room luxury mod flat, all facilities £90 inc Tel 01-381 8141

RENTALS

ACCOMMODATION URGENTLY req for City Institutions. Call us with your properties to let. Sebastian Estates. 01 381 4998

A NEW Lux f/f, d/bed, flat with garage, nr city, tube, river. £199 pw. Tel 01- 907 1381.

BAKER Street NW1 area, near tube, 1 bed studio flat, convenient location. Company or holiday let preferred. £90 pw. Tel 07002 204404.

CHELSEA SW3. Lovely quiet well decorated flat in mod block. 1 recep, 1 bed, kit & bath. CH. All machines. £300 pw. 01-351 4167.

FURNISHED 1 bed flat, kit, bath, sit room, Chelsea views. £95 pw. Tel: 01-736 6017

HENRY & JAMES Contact us now on 01-235 8951 for the best selection of furnished flats and houses to rent in Belgravia, Knightsbridge and Chelsea.

MARBA VALE. 3 bed lux flat, 2 baths, lge recep, parking, 24hr porter £375 pw. 01-866 0826.

PUTNEY Newly fitted 2 bed flat. £150 pw 3 bed maisonette, 2 bathrooms. £250 pw Tel:01 979 0626

W1 Quiet 2 room flat, top floor (no lift). Jan 12-March 12 £140 PW 01-486 5177

RENTALS

TOWER PROPERTY SERVICES
HOLLAND PARK New 1 bed luxury flat £170 pw
NW1 Ultimate luxury 2 bed 2 bath flat private pkng. lift. unfurn/furn £260 pw
QUEENSGATE SW7 Beautiful 2 bed 2 bath, recep, dining all mod cons, sauna, roof terrace, unfurn/furn £395 pw
01 383 7261/2061

WANTED Central London short lets & lettings from £150 - £500 pw Furn/unfurn for vetting clients. Simmonds & Co 724 7765 11am - 5pm

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

CHALET Staff Needed to work in French Alps this winter. Exp of cookery and group catering, with some French needed. Tel Summer Co Ski on 0293 588258

EXPERIENCED mature couple for hands-on management of lake estate in Washington DC Duties inc Cooking, cleaning, maintenance. Sep living quarters, health benefits & transport provided Min 2 yr tour. Salary commensurate with experience. Send CV & refs to Hunter Properties, 2911 Hunter Mill Rd Oakton, Virginia 22124 USA

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT NO 005136 OF 1989
IN THE MATTER OF PONTYLLE SAND AND BALLAST COMPANY LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 13th November 1989 confirming the reduction of the Capital of the above named Company from £1,000,000 to £60,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 25th November 1989
Dated the 16th day of December 1989
Messrs Chris & Co of 28 Market Place, Kegworth, Derby DE7 2EE

IN THE LEGAL NOTICES YESTERDAY WE INADVERTENTLY HEADED THE NOTICE ABOUT THE REDUCTION OF CAPITAL IN PONTYLLE SAND AND BALLAST COMPANY LIMITED WITH THE WORDS "IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986" IT SHOULD HAVE READ "IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985" OUR APOLOGIES TO PONTYLLE SAND AND BALLAST COMPANY LIMITED

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT NO 007720 OF 1989
IN THE MATTER OF THE HEADLAND GROUP PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 29 November 1989 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 6 December 1989
Dated this 16 day of December 1989
Freshfields of Whitgift House, 17-24 Cathedral Place London EC4M 7JA. Solicitors for the above-named Company

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below, is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person of persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person named opposite before the date specified after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have and notice

KYLE Margaret Mary Hammond otherwise Margaret Mary Hamilton-Kyle of The Manor House St Harry South Glamorgan formerly Bryant Cottages 10 Frankland Road, Farnham Surrey died on 7th August 1989 Particulars to Drees and Attlee Solicitors of Salisbury House London Wall, London EC2M 5PS before 19th February 1990

WALLIS Charles Edward 48 Aldenby Street London SW1 died 19th August 1989 Particulars to Piper Smith & Basham Solicitors, 31 Warwick Square London SW1V 2AF Ref: NDH/BM/W99/11 before 19th February 1990

NICHOLSON Olga Nina née NICHOLSON otherwise Nina Olga NICHOLSON spinster late of Chellows Hall Cottage Stanwell, Barnstable Devon died there on 26th March 1989 estate about £48,000 the 5th of the above named are required to reply to Messrs Rowe Watts and Wood Solicitors of 9-9 Market Square, Barnstable Devon EX34 9AX.

PETTENGELL Charles Victor of 66 Elsham Harrow Middlesex died on 25th February 1989 Particulars to Gadsons Harte Solicitors of Temple House 221 228 Station Road Harrow Middlesex HA1 2XL Ref 25/24/ Pettengell before 26th February 1990.

SHURMAN Sidney otherwise SHUMAN Sydney 3 Wykeham Road London NW4 died on 2nd November 1989 Particulars to Kingsley Napley Solicitors of 107 115 Long Acre, London WC2E 9PY before 21st February 1990

TREBE William late of 3bis Tavistock Road, London W11, died 13th July 1989 Particulars to Wilston & Co 72/74 Notting Hill Gate London W11 before 16th February 1990 Executor: Simon Charles Winston

THE TIMES
Christmas Copy Deadlines

Issue dated	Copy deadline
Saturday 23rd December	12.50pm Thursday 21st Dec
Tuesday 26th December	5.30pm Thursday 21st Dec
Wednesday, 27th December	5.30pm Thursday 21st Dec
Thursday, 28th December	5.00pm Friday, 22nd Dec

(Cancellations and alterations by 5pm, Wednesday 20th December, 1989).

New Year Copy Deadlines

Issue dated	Copy deadline
Saturday, 30th December	12.50pm Thursday 28th Dec
Monday, 1st January	5.30pm Thursday 28th Dec
Tuesday 2nd January	5.00pm Friday 29th Dec

(Cancellations and alterations by 5pm, Wednesday 27th December, 1989).

DEC 16 ON THIS DAY 1939

The Graf Spee, badly damaged in the action with the cruisers Exeter, Ajax and Achilles was scuttled by her crew on orders from Hitler; her captain Hans Lansdorf committed suicide.

ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE REFUELLING

The German "pocket battleship" Admiral Graf Spee has, it is unofficially reported from Montevideo, been ordered by the Uruguayan Government to leave port within 72 hours expiring at 11.30 pm tomorrow...

GERMANS BEGIN REPAIRS
From Our Special Correspondent
MONTEVIDEO, Dec 15

The Admiral Graf Spee is refuelling and is apparently preparing to put to sea again.

At 5 p.m. today the British Minister handed a second Note to the Uruguayan Foreign Office renewing yesterday's request that the Admiral Graf Spee be either interned or required to leave Montevideo.

The Uruguayan Government are reported to have given her permission to remain here long enough to make such repairs as are necessary to restore her to seaworthiness, but not to make good the damage to her fighting equipment. She began yesterday to take on board steel plates for patching her hull and oxygen tanks for welding. It is likely to be a long job, for none of the three ship-repairing concerns at Montevideo will aid the battleship's crew. Two of these concerns are British owned and the owner of the third is a Uruguayan of French descent. Moreover, there is a strong anti-Nazi feeling here, and the workers at the port have threatened to boycott any firm which may help to repair the warship.

The Admiral Graf Spee is riding high in the water, which indicates that the report that she was short of fuel is probably true. There are three holes on her water-line forward and on her starboard side, and another huge hole on her port side forward, outside the crew's quarters. The jagged edges of the plates there are turned outward, showing that there must have been a severe explosion within the battleship. A port-side gun-tower which housed 6in. guns was overturned, and the fighting tower was hit by a shell that came over the stern and shows a large gap. Some of the 62 British prisoners who were aboard her during the battle said that they had counted 17 hits on her.

The British prisoners from the Admiral Graf Spee, who were released yesterday, said that at no time was there any sign of mustard gas in the warship.

These prisoners were from nine British merchantmen which had been sunk by the Admiral Graf Spee in the South Atlantic...The 62 men — officers, and seamen — who were released yesterday on the condition that they did not go to sea again during the war, said that they had been well treated by the Germans, but that during the battle they had been locked in a compartment below decks, directly under a turret carrying 11-inch guns.

Some of them said last night that they knew a British victory might mean their deaths, nevertheless they sang and cheered the attackers.

SCIENCE REPORT

A taste of Hell on Earth

If Hell is indeed, as described to James Joyce's Stephan Dedalus, a place where "sulphurous brimstone burns for ever and ever with unspeakable fury", then it would seem to be located in orbit around the planet Jupiter and to be better known to astronomers as Io, one of the giant planet's four major moons.

There, it appears, gigantic volcanoes spew out molten sulphur in great gouts over 300 kilometres high, and fiery brimstone runs in rivers over the surface. When the Galileo spacecraft, launched last month, reaches Io in six years' time, researchers hope to obtain a better understanding of what must be one of the most awesome worlds in the Solar System.

But Clive Oppenheimer and David Stevenson of the Open University in Milton Keynes experienced a taste of the infernal on our own planet when, as they report in the December 14 issue of *Nature* (vol 342, pp 790-793), they stumbled upon lakes of liquid sulphur on Poás volcano in Costa Rica.

Three years ago, the crater at the summit of the volcano was filled with water. But around 1987, a body of molten lava is thought to have risen up through the Earth to become situated below the crater lake, raising the temperature of the surrounding rock and causing the lake to evaporate slowly.

By March 1989 the lake had all but dried up, revealing a muddy floor on which stood yellow cones of pure sulphur up to three metres high. The sulphur had probably been lying hidden at the bottom of the lake all along, and may have been formed by the chemical reaction of the two gases hydrogen sulpide and sulphur dioxide as they were released into the lake water as a result of volcanic process

SATURDAY'S SCOTTISH TV AND RADIO

Rhetoric of an architect

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

● Though presented as a drama, David Cregan's **Goodbye and I Hope We Meet Again** (Channel 4, 9.00pm) comes across more as a debate. This is not necessarily a handicap since it is a piece rich in ideas and its arguments are conducted with wit and passion. I suspect it was written from the heart. The excellent Anton Rodgers plays Anbrey Bellweather, an idealistic architect who used to design new buildings but now sees greater value in restoring old ones. His clients include a church in Rome and the President of the United States, but in between he stops off at Oldham to advise on the restoration of a Victorian cotton mill.

Strained relations: Anton Rodgers and Holly de Jong as his wife (Ch4, 9.00pm)

Captivated by the building (which, of course, is as much a product of industrial capitalism as the 20th century architecture he despises) he is determined to save it from developers who would turn the area into a yuppie paradise. Aubrey's eloquent discourse on Oldham's industrial history, combined with a plea for "the spirit of place", appears to swing the argument his way. But he is an adviser only and the real decision lies with the local authority and, to an extent, the European Community, which is prepared to draw on its regional fund. Aubrey's victory proves to be an empty one, forcing him to think again about his architectural principles. The sub-plot, and the less coovincing part, concerns Aubrey's strained relations with his wife (Holly de Jong) (expressed in a bitter-sweet joke about their only meeting each other at airports) and fondness for propositioning delectable redheads. But Cregan ties everything up with a fine rhetorical flourish in which any contradictions and weaknesses are easily submerged.

● **Animal Night** (BBC2, 7.20pm) is a five-hour special from the *Arena* stable exploring various aspects of man's (and, one must hastily add, woman's) relationship with animals. Hosted by s *Spitting Image* cat and dog, bearing a marked resemblance to Gloria Hunniford and Sir Alastair Burnet, the evening includes *Sacred Elephant*, a film version of Heathcote Williams's poem, a celebration of the pig and a homage to the great wildlife presenters from Armand and Michaela Denis, through Hans and Lotte Haas to Sir David Attenborough. The climax is a debate on the proposition that "the animal kingdom needs a bill of rights". Ken Livingstone speaks for the motion and Germaine Greer against.

BBC 1

7.30 Saturday Starts Here! with Wayne Jackman and Ian Tregonning, beginning with **Playbus** at the The Why Bird Stop (r) **7.55 Laurel and Hardy** characters in a cartoon *Handle With Care (r)* **8.00 Mersey Tales** Billy Butler tells the story of *Nigel the Pirate* by Roy Apps. **8.05 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse.** *League of Super Rodents*
8.20 ChuckleVision. Paul and Barry Chuckle look after their uncle's mansion for the weekend **8.35 Thundercats** in *The Ghost Warrior(r)*
9.00 Going Live! presented by Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene. This week's edition of the young people's magazine includes interviews with Mel Smith and Desmond Lynam. Plus music from Bros, the Beautiful South and *Bread's* Jonathon Morris **12.12 Weather**
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): **12.20 Football; 12.25 Skiing:** the Men's Downhill Championships from Val Gardena. The commentator is David Vine; **12.50, 1.20** and **1.55 Racing from Ascot.** The commentators are Peter O'Sullevan, Julian Wilson and Richard Pitman; **1.00 News; 1.30 Motor Racing** from Brands Hatch: Grandstand Formula Forward Final. The commentator is Murray Walker; **2.05 Show Jumping** from the Olympia Horse Show; **2.30** and **4.20 Squash.** The National Championships from Newcastle. Tony Gubba is the commentator; **3.00 Rugby League:** a Regal Trophy game. The commentators are Ray French and Peter Fox; **3.50 Football** half-time scores; **4.00 Powerlifting** from Stone: Jim Neilly reports on the Tropical Conservatory World and European Championships; **4.40 Final Score**
9.00 News with Moira Stuart. Weather
5.10 Scottish News and Sport
5.15 The Flying Doctors: The Hometown Hero. An emergency at the Coopers Crossing airbase and Sam is called to help an aircraft land. The pilot is taken ill and his novice brother is left to take over the controls. Starring Peter O'Brien, Liz Burch and Robert Grubb. (Ceefax)
6.00 The Noel Edmonds Saturday Roadshow. In the last of the present series Noel Edmonds and Lisa Maxwell are joined by comedian Frank Carson and Agony Aunt Claire Rayner. **6.45 Bob's Full House** with Bob Monkhouse (Ceefax)
7.20 Hearts of Gold. Esther Rantzen and Michael Groth honour people of extraordinary kindness and courage (Ceefax)
9.00 Film: Micki and Maude (1984), starring Dudley Moore, Ann Reinking and Amy Irving. Comedy about a television chat show presenter who has an affair with one of his guests and finds she is expecting his baby. Delighted, he decides to divorce his wife but before he has a chance to tell her she, too, announces that she is pregnant. Directed by Blake Edwards. (Ceefax)
9.55 News and Sport with Martyn Lewis. Weather
10.10 Sportscene. Dougie Donnelly introduces highlights from the Premier Division and show jumping from the Grand Hall at Olympia
11.10 Film: Whatever Happened to Aunt Alice? (1969), starring Geraldine Page and Ruth Gordon. An impoverished widow employs s succession of wealthy housekeepers who mysteriously disappear. Directed by Lee H. Katzin
12.50am Weather

Dudley Moore: stars as a television chat show presenter (BBC1, 8.00pm)

SCOTTISH

6.00 TV-am begins with **News** and **Saturday Sport**, presented by Geoff Clark. Includes previews of the week's sporting events **7.00 News 7.30 WAC 90.** Children's entertainment presented by Tommy Boyd, Michaela Strachan and Sybil Ruscoe. Includes the final sxerpt of the *KP Hula Hoop Swimming Games*
9.25 Motormouth 2. Kylie Minogue makes a special appearance to talk about her first feature film, *The Delinquents*. Also in the studio are four fellow Australians from the soap *Home and Away*; Neneh Cherry performs her new single; Cyndi Lauper introduces her latest video release; Neil Buchanan's puppy makes her television debut and Eddie the Eagle Edwards joins in the fun
11.30 The ITV Chart Show. This week's Vintage Video slot features Billy Idol **12.30 Batman**
1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather **1.05 Scotland Today**
1.10 Saint and Greavsie. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves take a lively look at the weekend's football action and talk to Howard Kendall, the new manager of Manchester City
1.40 Sportsmasters. *The grand final of* the sports quiz introduced by Dickie Davies. Special guest Frank Bruno presents the prize to the winner
2.10 Snooker. Tony Francis presents frames 17-24 in the final of the Everest World Matchplay from the Brentwood Centre, Essex.
3.50 Coronation Street (r)
4.45 Results Service presented by Elton Welsby
5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather **5.10 LWT News** and weather
5.15 The A-Team: Heart of Rock 'n' Roll. The Rock star Rick James makes a guest appearance when he asks the A-Team to help to protect his old friend CJ, played by Isaac Hayes. Starring George Peppard and Mr T (r)
6.15 Catchphrase. Hi-tech quiz show presented by Roy Walker. (Oracle)
6.45 Blind Date. Cilla Black plays matchmaker to another selection of hopeful contastants and discovers how last week'e couples fared (Oracle)
7.35 Beadle's About. The series ends with another compilation of memorable moments introduced by Jeremy Beadle
8.05 Frederick Forsyth Presents: Pride and Extreme Prejudice. A beautiful prostitute and her pimp are found murdered in Bonn and several videos, containing enough incriminating evidence to bring down half the State governments of the German Federal Republic, are missing. The hunt is on to find the thief, but why is the British secret service involved? Simon Caddell, Brian Dennehy, Alan Howard and Lisa Eichorn star in the last of the series (Oracle)
10.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Sport and weather **10.15 LWT Weather**
10.20 The Dame Edna Experience. The housewife and superstar is joined in her luxurious penthouse apartment by heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard and Tony Curtis
11.10 Snooker. Tony Francis introduces the final session of the Everest World Matchplay. John Pulman, Rex Williams, Mark Wildman and Jim Meadowcroft are the commentators
12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies. Tony Slattery talks to Kylie Minogue about her controversial role in the film *The Delinquents* and interviews Russ Meyer and his wife Kitten Natividad
1.00 Kojak: Birthday Party. Kojak'a young niece is snatched from s park. The kidnappers threaten to harm her unless one of their accomplices being held by the police for murder is released
2.00 The Hit Man and Her presented by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan
4.00 In Search of. . . The Real Dracula with Alan Landsburg
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
5.00 ITN Morning News with Richard Bath. Ends at **8.00**

GRAMPIAN

As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00 ALF 1.05-1.10 Grampian News 5.10-5.15 Criomagan 4.00am-4.30 Ray Bradbury Theatre**

BBC 2

9.00 Pages from Ceefax
10.00 Charley Chase (b/w) **10.20** Laurel and Hardy (b/w). The Brats
10.40 Samson and Sally. Animated adventures about two young whales
11.40 Animal Hospital (r)
12.10 History Man. Longthorpe Tower (r)
12.15 The Wild Side of Town. The effects of development on wildlife in the cities. (Ceefax) (r)
12.40 Melba. *The Making of a Musical.* (r)
1.10 In the Post. The history of sea mail (r)
1.35 Training Dogs the Woodhouse Way. Part four — how to teach a dog to go down and stay (r) **2.00 Network East.** Asian magazine
2.40 Film: The Son of Monte Cristo (1934, b/w), starring George Sanders and Louis Hayward. A ruthless military leader seizes power in a small principality governed by a beautiful Duchess, forcing her to flee to France, where she encounters the charismatic Count of Monte Cristo. Directed by Rowland V. Lee.
4.15 The Sky at Night. *Voyagers Grand Tour* (r)
4.40 Film: The Master of Ballantrae (1953), starring Errol Flynn. Adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson'a adventure novel. Two brothers toss a coin to decide which one will join Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebellion while the other looks after the estate. Directed by William Keighley.
6.10 NewsView and weather
6.55 The Nutt House: The Nutt Cracker Suite. There is almost an international incident when a Soviet ballet company checks in to the hotel
7.20-12.20 Arena: Animal Night. (see Choice) **7.30 Smashing Pigs.** A celebration of this animal **8.00 Truth is Stranger than Fiction.** Amazing real life animals. **8.10 Sacred Elephant.** A film version of Heathcote Williams's epic poems **8.55 Great Wildlife Presenters Through the Ages.** A compilation of clips from wildlife films from the last 50 years **9.25 John Daniel the First.** The story of the first gorilla to survive captivity **10.00 A Day in the Life of Sam the Dog.** A film following a typical day in a dog's life **10.25 Trials of Animals.** A film about the judicial prosecution and punishment of animals in Europe in the Middle Ages **11.00 The Animal Night Debate.** Concluding the exploration of animal behaviour, Donald MacCormick chairs a live debate with Germaine Greer, Tom Regan and Mary Warnock are among the speakers
12.20am Film: The Curse of the Werewolf (1961), starring Oliver Reed, Clifford Evans and Yvonne Romain. Chilling story about the child of a deaf-mute servant girl conceived in a rape who grows up to be a werewolf. Directed by Terence Fisher. Ends at **1.55**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Ourselves and Other Animals (r) **6.30 Just 4 Fun 7.00 Once upon a Time. . .Life 7.30 International Times — World News 8.00 Trans World Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line 9.25 Sing and Swing with stars of the 30s and 40s**
9.30 I Want the Sun To Stand Up. Award-winning French film. Signed and subtitled for the deaf (r)
10.00 4 What It's Worth (r)
10.30 Film: Forty Pounds of Trouble (1962). Comedy starring Tony Curtis as an harassed Nevada casino manager who is stranded with a six-year-old girl. With Phil Silvers and Suzanne Pleshette. Directed by Norman Jewison.
12.30 Dance with Me. Victor and Quinzinho finally meet. (Portuguese dialogue with English subtitles.)
1.00 The Heart Has Its Reasons. A profile of Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche. (r)
1.55 Film: Here Come the Girls (1953). Musical comedy set in the 1890s. Bob Hope stars as the oldest and most clumsy chorus boy in the line, who unwittingly traps a mysterious murderer. Also starring Rosemary Clooney. Directed by Claude Bymyon.
3.25 Film: The Final Test (1953, b/w). Comedy starring Jack Warner as an England batsman playing his last test against Australia at odds with his son, who prefers poetry to cricket. Directed by Anthony Asquith.
5.05 Brookside (r) (Oracle)
9.00 Right To Reply presented by Brian Hayes
6.30 A Walk Up Fifth Avenue. Bernard Levin shares his breakfast with 23 dogs in Central Park, has dinner withMrs Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, and meets Mother Hale, the Saint of Harlem
7.00 1992 and All That. Sheena McDonald introduces a discussion on the issues raised in the first four programmes, followed by an interview with a leading politician
8.00 Icewalk. Documentary about an historic 56-day journey on foot to reach the North Pole led by Robert Swan, the first man to walk to both Poles. The expedition also looks at the effects of pollution in the polar region
9.00 4 Play: Goodbye and I Hope We Meet Again. (Oracle) (see Choice)
10.15 The Session with Guy Clarke, Arcady and Jimmie Dale Gilmore
11.15 Yachting: Whitbread Round the World Race. Gareth Evans reports as the fleet cross the Southern Ocean from Uruguay to Perth, West Australia. Dame Naomi James and Chay Blyth are the commentators
12.00 Film: Tarantula (1955, b/w), starring Leo G. Carroll as a scientist whose experiments into the creation of a new nutrient create a monstrous spider. With Mara Corday. Directed by Jack Arnold.
1.30am-2.00 Buygones presented by Victor Lewis. Ends at **2.00**

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES: 5.10pm-6.00Wales onSaturday12.50am Weather **NORTHERN IRELAND:** 5.10pm-5.15Northern Ireland News andsport 10.10 The Snow1 1.15International ShowJumping 12.15am Close

ANGLIA As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Batman 12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies 1.00 1st Exposure 2.00 Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 Nascar.

BORDER As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 2.10-4.45 Snooker 5.15 Bullseye 5.45-6.15 Who's the Boss? 4.00-4.30 Ray Bradbury Theatre.

CENTRAL As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Fashion Show 12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies 1.00 Prisoner: Cell Block H 2.00 Film: Inspector Clouseau 3.50 America's Top Ten 4.15 Cinematrocions 4.45-5.00 Profiles.

CHANNEL As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Toys for Big Boys 2.00am Night Heat 3.00 Batman 3.30-4.00 Rock of Europe.

GRANADA As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 2.10-4.45 Snooker 12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies 1.00 Kojak 2.00 Hit Man and Her 4.00 Ray Bradbury Theatre 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten.

HTV WEST As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Batman 12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies 1.00 Crime Story 2.00 Three's Company 2.30 Indy Cart Racing 4.00-5.00 At the Maintenance Shop.

HTV WALES As HTV West except:No variations.

LONDON As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00pm ALF 12.30am Tour of Duty 1.30 Saturday Night at the Movies 2.00 Film:Sunburn 4.00-5.00 Hit Man and Her.

TSW As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 South West Week 1.40-2.10 Mary 12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies 1.00 Kojak 2.00 Hit Man and Her 4.00 Ray Bradbury Theatre 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten.

TVS As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Toys for Big Boys 2.00am Night Heat 3.00 Batman 3.30-4.00 Rock of Europe.

TYNE TEES As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 3.50 ALF 4.15-4.45 Bullseye 12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies 1.00 Kojak 2.00 Hit Man and Her 4.00 Ray Bradbury Theatre 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten.

ULSTER As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 2.10-4.45 Snooker 12.30am Saturday Night at the Movies 1.00 Kojak 2.00 Hit Man and Her 4.00 Ray Bradbury Theatre 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten.

YORKSHIRE As Scottish except:12.30pm-1.00 Please Sir! 12.30am Saturday night at the Movies 1.00 Hot Shots 2.00 Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 Music Box.

S4C Starts:6.00am Early Morning 9.25 Sing and Swing 9.30 I Want the Sun to Stand Up 10.00 Irish Tales 10.30 Hard News 11.00 Gardener's Guide 11.30 4 What It's Worth 12.00 Mussorgski 1.30pm Film: Edge of Darkness" 4.05 By the Seat of their Pants 5.05 Brookside 5.00 Right to Reply 5.30 Wonder Years 7.00 Ar Y Bocs 7.30 News 7.40 Noson I'w Chofio 8.40 Y Maes Chwarae 9.30 4 Play 10.45 Lobster Comedies" 11.15 Whitbread Round the World Race 12.00 Film: Tarantula" 1.30am Buygones 2.00 Closedown.

RTE 1 Starts:9.00am Scratch Saturday 1.00pm Bionic Women 2.00 News 2.15 Film: A Southern Yankee 3.50 Film: His Majesty O'Keeffe 5.30 Scoraioicht Jamosch 6.01 News 6.15 Maibag 6.35 Famous Teddy Z 7.05 Mission Impossible 8.00 Saturday Stage 9.00 News 9.20 Dallas 10.15 Kenny Live 11.40 Midnight Caller 12.35am News, Closedown.

NETWORK 2 Starts: 12.00 News 12.04pm Sports Stadium 5.05 Mickey's Christmas Carol 5.30 Grand Ole Opry 8.00 Leonhyne 6.30 Sull Theri 6.55 Nuachtt 7.00 Rapido 7.30 Tracey Ullman 2.00 Making of Gone with the Wind 9.30 Paul McCartney 11.25 Film: Christmas Holiday 1.05am Closedown.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am Countdown **7.00** Fun Factory **11.00** Countdown **12.00** Frank Bough's World: Search for Adventure — Rodeo Down Under **1.00pm** The Invisible Man **2.00** All-American Wrestling **3.00** The Bionic Woman **4.00** UK Top 50 **5.00** Dolly **6.00** Matilda **8.00** Film: The Revengers **10.00** WWF Superstars of Wrestling '89 **11.00** Sky World News Tonight **11.30** Saturday Night Main Event: Hulk Hogan v The Genius

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
5.00am Sky News **5.30** Beyond 2000 **6.30** The UNESCO Report — Science to the Rescue of Culture **7.30** Beyond 2000 **9.30** Earthfile **9.30** Wild West End **10.30** The UNESCO Report — Sands of Centuries **11.30** Our World — Durrell in Russia: From Tien Shan to Samarkand **12.30pm** Beyond 2000 **1.30** Motor Sports News **2.30** Wild West End **3.30** Earthfile **4.30** Our World **5.30** Wild West End **6.30** Beyond 2000 **7.30** The Reporters **8.30** The Best of the Frank Bough Interview **9.30** The Best of Target **10.30** The Reporters **11.30** Motor Sports News **12.30am** Wild West End **1.30** Target **2.30** The Best of the Frank Bough Interview **3.30** The Reporters **4.30** Motor Sports News

SKY MOVIES

From **8.00am The Satellite Shop**
2.00pm Pirates (1986): Walter Matthau as a crusty British pirate
4.00 Back Home: A teenage girl evacuated to the United States during the Second World War returns home to find her world totally changed
9.00 Sacred Ground (1983): A custody battle over an infant boy, between his father and American Indians
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
9.00 The Boy Who Could Fly (1986): The friendship between an autistic orphan (Jay Underwood) and his new neighbour (Lucy Deakins)
9.40 UK Top 10 Films
10.00 The Delta Force (1986): Chuck Norris and Lee Marvin lead a commando unit to rescue hijacked plane passengers in the Middle East
12.15am Crimes of Passion (1985): Kathleen Turner as a fashion designer, who'a a prostitute by night, and Anthony Perkins as her deranged, self-appointed saviour
2.00 The Hitchhiker: Tonight'e episode is *And If We Dream*
2.30 Beer (1985): Loretta Swit as an advertising executive who comes up with a unique advertising concept
4.00 The Best of Times (1986): Robin Williams and Kurt Russell in e comedy about a high-school football rematch — 13 years on. Ends at **5.40am**

EUROSPORT

6.00am Countdown **7.00** Fun Factory **9.00** Menu **9.30** Rhythmic Gymnastics: Nitra Cup **10.30** Ford Ski Report **11.30** World Cup Skiing Live **12.30pm** Tennis Legends **1.00** Trans World Sport **2.00** International Ice Hockey **5.00** World Cup Skiing **6.00** Tennis **9.00** Olympia International Show Jumping **10.00** Football **12.00** World Cup Skiing

MTV

6.00am Non-stop Pure Pop **9.00** Club MTV **9.30** US Top 20 Countdown **11.00** Yo! **11.30** Week in Rock **12.00** Marcel and Ray **5.00pm** The Big Picture **5.30** The Eurythmics Rockumentary **9.00** Kristiane Backer **8.30** Club MTV **9.00** Party Zone **11.00** MTV Erotica **12.00** Malken Wexo **2.00am** Night Videos

SCREENSPORT

1.00am Motorcross **1.30** US College Football **3.30** English Rugby League **8.00** US PGA Golf **7.00** NFL Game of the Week **9.00** Karate **10.00** Uni Royal Truckspeed Event **11.00** Drag Racing **12.00** Argentina Football **1.45pm** Rugby League **3.15** Motorsport **4.00** Ice Hockey **6.00** Motorcross **6.30** Powersports **7.30** Golf **9.30** English Rugby League **11.00** International Volleyball

LIFESTYLE

12.00 Space Patrol **12.30pm** Car 54, Where Are You? **1.00** Make Room for Daddy **2.00** Championship Rodeo **3.00** GLOW **4.00** The Edge of Night

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, **TV Guide.**

A traveller's winning ways

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

● A modest globe-trotter myself, I recognize the truth of what Mick Webb, producer and one of the judges of *Option's* travel writing competition — the results are announced in **Ticket to Write** (Radio 4, FM, 5.00pm) — concludes about my fellow travellers. "The British", he says, "are obsessed with the quality of foreign toilets, the price of food, and their own incompetence in a foreign language". These obsessions do not, however, manifest themselves in either the winning entry, by Robert Harrison, which we hear him read in full, or in those by the runners-up, Sarah Pope and Sean Damer, who are represented only by excerpts. From his opening lines, you would not, in fact, think Harrison was writing a travel story at all: "I looked up from my desk to find a shotgun levelled at my head". And you would certainly oot deduce from this Chandler-type beginning that what the gifted Harrison is actually writing about is a true account of a yachting adventure in the Atlantic.

Robert Harrison: the winning entry (Radio 4, FM, 5.00pm)

● Best of the rest today: David Graham-Young's adaptation of Eduardo Pavlosky'a monologue **Potestad** (Radio 3, 10.20pm), with Tom Watson, an outstanding radio actor, as the Argentinian, dramatically deprived of his young daughter and recounting the tragedy mainly through physical associations; and **Saturday Gala Night** (Radio 2, 7.30pm), a Christmas spectacular from the Royal Festival Hall, with that sparkler Julie Andrews.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

DUCTILE
(b) Tractable, pliable, amenable, easy to bead or lead, from the Latin *duco, ducere, duxi, ductum* to lead: "What rot, the old female itch to be not *mastered*, God forfend, but ductile, polar to the male, intensely complemental."

MURINE
(a) Concerning mice, to do with the *ridiculus mus*, from the Latin *mus, muris* a mouse, a long-tailed rodent of the families *Muridae* and *Cricetidae*: "Soanis was not a marine man. He was very gross and he sweated what looked like crude oil."

FEATOUS
(a) Handsome, good-looking, tasty, fresh, from the Latin *facticias* artificial, manufactured; Chaucer, *Prologue*: "Full featous was hire cloke."

BARGUEST
(a) Literally a hill-ghost, a portentous phantom usually in the form of a dog, perhaps from the German *berg-geist*, mountain-demon: "The fat rolls of the generous-waisted barguests bulging."

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and **MW**
News on the half-hour from **5.30am** until **12.30pm**, then at **2.00, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30**
5.00am *Tim Smith* **7.00** Bruno Brookes Breakfast Show **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Adrian Juste **2.00** The Eighties in the Dock **3.00** The Saturday Sequence **7.00** Robbie Vincent **9.00** Andy Peebles Soul Train **11.00-2.00am** The Saturday Rock Show with Alan Freeman

RADIO 2

FM Stereo (except **1.00pm** to **7.00pm**) and **MW**
News on the hour until **1.00pm**, then at **3.00, 6.00, 7.00** and hourly from **10.00pm**
4.00am *Dave Bussey* **6.00** Graham Knight **8.05** David Jacobs **9.00** Sounds of the Sixties **10.00** Anna Raeburn **12.00** Gerald Harper **1.00pm** Pull the Other One (new series) **1.30** Sport on 2 **6.00** Cinema 2 **6.30** Brain of Sport '89 **7.00** Beat the Record **7.30** Saturday Night Gala (see Choice) **9.30** String Sound **10.05** Martin Kelner **12.05am** Night Owls **1.00** Nightride **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music

WORLD SERVICE

5.00am German Features 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Sports News 5.50 Financial News 5.55 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 World News 7.09 24 Hours; News Summary 7.30 From The Weeklies 7.45 Network UK 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 9.45 Worldbrief 10.01 Here's Humph! 10.15 Letter From America 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 World News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Behind the Wall 11.30 Londres Midi 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News 1.09 24 Hours; News Summary and Financial News 1.30 Network UK 1.45 Short Story: The Stuff of Dreams 2.01 The Ken Bruce Show 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Sportsworld 4.00 World News 4.09 News about Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 4.40 German Features 5.00 News Headlines in English 5.01 Sportsworld: Final Results 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 News Headlines in English 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 Nachrichten 8.00 World News 8.09 From Our Own Correspondent 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.00 News Summary 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 Behind the Wall 9.30 Khomeini's Children 10.00 Newshour 11.00 World News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 A Jolly Good Show 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Composer of the Month 1.01 Play of the Week: Mary Rose 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 The Book People 2.30 The Ken Bruce Show 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent 3.30 Quote . . . Unquote 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Personal View 4.45 Nachrichten und Presseschau

Julie Andrews: hosts *Saturday Gala Night*, a programme of music associated with the festive season (Radio 2, 7.30pm)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Schubert (Overture, Des Teufels Lustschlosse: Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Kertesz); Boris Blacher (Variations on a Theme of Paganini, 1947: Suchunk-Sinfonie Orchestra under Zagrosek)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Rimsky-Korsakov (Procession of the Nobles "Mlada": Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi); Heino Eller (Elegy, 1931: Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi, with Eluned Pierce, harp); Ravel (Deux mélodies hébraïques: Gérard Souzay, baritone, Dalton Baldwin, piano); Saint-Saëns (The Carnival of the Animals: Nash Ensemble, with Ian Brown and Susan Tomes, two pianos)
9.30 News
9.35 Beethoven: The pianist John Bingham performs Sonata in D, Op 10 No 3; Sonata in C minor, Op 111
9.30 Saturday Review: Introduced by Edward Greenfield. Record Review — Building a Library. Michael Kennedy reviews Walton's Belshazzar's Feast; new orchestral issues are reviewed by Edward Seckerson **10.40** Record Release. Walton (Symphony no 2: London Symphony Orchestra under Charles Mackerras); Bernstein (Serenade after Plato's "Symposium": St Louis Symphony Orchestra under Slatkins, with Robert McDuffie, violin); Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel: Cleveland Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy); Mendelssohn (Symphony No 2 "Hymn of Praise": Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Kurt Masur, with Barbara Bonney, soprano, Edith Wiens, soprano, Peter Schreier, tenor)
1.00pm News
1.05 L'Ecole d'Orphée performs Handel (Trio Sonata in F, Op 2 No 4); Richard Jones (Suite in B flat, Op 3 No 4); William Babell (Sonata in G minor, Op 1 No 3); Handel (Trio sonata in B minor, Op 2 No 1)
1.50 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Takuo Yuasa, led by Geoffrey Trabichoff, performs Ravel (Valses nobles et sentimentales); Rimsky-Korsakov (Sheherazade)
2.50 From the Festivals 1989: Aldeburgh Festival. Jessye Norman, soprano, Dalton Baldwin, piano, Alain Marion, flute, perform Strauss (Seitdem dein Aug' in meines Schaute, *Ich trage meine Minne* Lob des Leidens Heimliche Aufforderung); Wolf (from the Spanish Songbook: Bedect mich mit Blumen; In dem Schatten meiner Locken; *Als* gingen Herz, zur Ruh; Geh, Geliebter, geh jetzt); Duparc (L'invitation au voyage; La Vie antérieure; Chanson triste); Ravel (Shéhérazade); de Falla (Seis canciones populares espanoles), incl **3.30** Interval Reading
4.25 Début: Graham Ashton, trumpet, John Lenehan, piano, perform Berio (Sequenza 10 for trumpet solo); Hindemith (Sonata)
5.00 Jazz Record Requests with Peter Clayton
5.45 Critics' Forum: Chairman Anthony Curtis, with Jill Neville, Peter Porter and Bryan Robertson discuss Jim Jarmusch's film *Mystery Train*; Brecht's *Good Person of Sichuan* at the National Theatre; Peter Brook's *The Mahabharata* on Channel 4; and Aleksandr Rodchenko's and Varvara Stepanova's work at the Serpentine Gallery
6.35 Symphonic Winds (new series): In the first of three programmes, Stockholm Symphonic Wind Orchestra under H. Robert Reynolds, with Jörgen Petterson, alto saxophone, perform Henk Alkema (La Bête); Ingolf Dahl (Concerto for alto saxophone); Hindemith (Symphony in B flat)
7.25 Mozart's Lucio Silla: Concentus Musicus of Vienna under Nikolaus Harnoncourt; Arnold Schoenberg Choir, with Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano, performs Mozart's three-act opera, with libretto by Giovanni de Gammera. Given at this year's Vienna Festival. Sung in Italian
10.20 Studio 3: Potestad, by Eduardo Pavlovsky. Translated and adapted by David Graham-Young. Tom Watson as the man whose daughter has been abducted by agents of an oppressive regime (see Choice)
11.05 Outside In: British vibraphone player Orphy Robinson, with his Septet, plays his suite, An Experience to Be Shared
12.00 News **12.05am** Close

RADIO 4

LW (s) Stereo and **FM**
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing; Weather **6.10** The Farming Week: Robert Pool and Digby *Anderson with the best food* from the best farms; and Kate Boston examines the farmers' market for holly and mistletoe
6.50 Prayer for tha Day **6.55** Weather **7.00** Today, incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.55, 8.58** Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Sport on 4: Presented by Cliff Michelmore
9.30 Breakaway: To celebrate the programme's 500th edition, Bernard Falk visits the Champagne area of France and Paul Wade and Kathy Arnold enjoy the delights of Burgundy and Alsace
10.00 News; Loose Ends: Ned Sherrin, with guests Jonathan Ross, Arthur Smith and Emma Freud (s)
11.00 News; The Week in Westminster: Review of the week in politics by Robin Oakley, political editor of *The Times*
11.30 Europhile: News and events affecting people around Europe presented from Paris by Philippe Chatenay and Christiane Collange
12.00 Money Box with Louise Botting and Vincent Duggleby
12.25pm The News Quiz: Hosted by Barry Took (a) **12.55** Weather
1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby in Congleton, Cheshire, with panellists Rosie Barnes, MP; David Blunkett, MP; journalist Katherine Whitehorn; and Cecil Parkinson, MP (r)
2.00 News; Any Answers? 01-580 4411. Jonathan Dimbleby takes listeners' calls on topics raised in this week's *Any Questions?*
2.30 A Better Life: Play by Graham Reid (s) (r)
4.00 News; Beyond the Ark: Colin Tudge examines the problems experienced by those who breed endangered animals in captivity and attempt to return them to the wild
4.30 Science Now: Georgina Ferry visits some bookshops and suggests some ideas for Christmas presents
5.00 Conversation Piece: Sue MacGregor talks to opera singer Josephine Barstow (r)
5.25 Week Ending: Satirical *review of the week's news* (r) **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 News; Sports round-up
6.25 Citizens omnibus edition (s)
7.10 Stop the Week (s)
7.45 Saturday-Night Theatre: Death of a Fly, by David Ashton (s)
9.00 Music in Mind: Brian Kay with best-loved melodies (s)
9.50 Ten to Ten (s) **9.59** Weather
10.00 News
10.15 Open Mind: Hugo Young challenges three experts to discuss topical issues
10.45 Face to Face . . . with Kenneth Kaunda, by Brian Thompson. Amateur historian and professional Yorkshireman Claude Jenks recalls a brush with the President of Zambia at the Three Choirs Festival
11.00 Girls Will be Girls: Sophisticated songs and witty sketches from the Bobo Girls — Rebecca Front and Sioned William (s)
11.30 Beachcomber . . . By the Way: Starring Richard Ingrams, John Welts, Patricia Routledge and John Sessions. A recreation of J.B. Morton's *Beachcomber* column (s) (r)
12.00-12.30am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping Forecast

FM as **LW** except:
1.55-2.00pm Programme News **4.30-5.00** Options: **4.30** The Riddle of the Stones **5.00** Ticket to Write (see Choice) **5.30** Franc-Parler

SCOTLAND

FM and **MW**
News on the hour until **2.00pm**.
6.00am As Radio 4 **6.55** Weather **7.03** Out of Doors **7.10** Weekly Report **7.30** Far From the Crowd **7.58** Weather **8.00** Newsweek Scotland **9.03** Sport on Scotland **9.30** Travel Time **10.03** Old Gold **11.30** The Saturday Club **2.02pm** Sportsround **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.05** Take the Floor **7.00** The Other Side of Country **7.45-12.43am** As Radio 4

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. World Service: M

SUNDAY'S SCOTTISH TV AND RADIO

Compiled by Susan Thomson and Gillian Maxey

Rendell's classic whodunit

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

● The Veiled One (ITV, 7.45pm) breaks the usual mould of Ruth Rendell Mysteries by being offered as a two-hour single slot instead of a series. It is a good move, if only because Rendell's intricate plotting is difficult to carry in the head for a whole week while awaiting the next episode. In his own unforced way, the towering George Baker has made Chief Inspector Wexford as subtle and convincing as Joan Hickson's Miss Marple and the stories have been strongly cast with attractive Hampshire locations. Adapted by Trevor Preston (an old hand at television crime) and busily directed by Mary McMurray, *The Veiled One* intertwines the two stories of a woman found strangled in a car park and an attempt to kill Wexford's younger daughter. Unlike the Agatha Christie stock company, the suspects are nicely rounded and rooted in a recognizableworld and they include that typical Rendell figure, the emotional cripple. But there is enough sprinkling of clues to ensure that devotees of the classic whodunit will not be disappointed.

Subtle and convincing: George Baker as Chief Inspector Wexford (ITV, 7.45pm)

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

A nation that annually tucks into 30lb of chocolate a head shouldn't feign holier-than-thou horror over the antics of those Britons in Chocoholics Anonymous (Radio 4, 3.30pm) who spend a weekend in an Oxfordshire hotel stuffing themselves silly with the brown stuff. The remarkable thing about these guzzlers is not that they emerge from their secret closets but that they are able to squeeze back in again after a non-stop intake of chocolate croissants, venison and chocolate, and the chocolate survival kit supplied with every bedroom. As they are all women, one can understand their muted response to the sales talk: revelation that Casanova preferred cocoa to champagne, and that Montezuma drank three jugs of chocolate before entering his harem.

BBC 1

8.45 A Living Antique (r)
9.15 Pilgrimage to Christmas. From Stanbrook Abbey, near Worcester
10.00 A Life of Our Own For people with learning difficulties (r) **10.25** Buongiornio Italia! Italian for beginners (r) **10.50** Help Your Child with Maths. Series for four to 11 year olds (r) **11.05** Hindi Urdu Bol Chaal Hindi and Urdu language series for beginners **11.30** In the Know (r). (Ceefax)
11.40 See Hear! Magazine for the hard of hearing introduced by Maureen Denmark and Clive Mason **12.30** Country File. John Craven talks to Lord and Lady Clifford who are entertaining paying guests to a weekend shoot on theirestate **12.55** Weather
1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by On the Record. With a look at the Conservative Government's record in dealing with people who live on or below the poverty line **2.00** EastEnders (r). (Ceefax)
3.00 In Search of the Wow Wow Wibble Woggle Wazzle Woodle Wool written and starring Tim Nosh. Life size puppets go on a musical adventure to find the Wow Wow Wibble
3.50 Superdogs. Deborah Hall and Peter Purves introduce the grand final of the Winalot Challenge Trophy from Ragley Hall, Alchester
4.30 International Show Jumping. Raymond Brooks-Ward introduces highlights from the fourth day at Olympia. Including the racing dogs, the Shetland Grand National and the Modern Alarms Christmas Knock-out Stakes
5.20 The Clothes Show. Selina Scott and Jeff Banks report from Treliske Hospital in Truro
5.45 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. King Caspian and his men tackle an enormous sea serpent. (Ceefax)
6.15 Lifeline. Cliff Michelmore and Lynette Lithgow report on the latest charity news and Richard Whitmore appeals on behalf of the Camphill Village Trust
6.25 News with Moira Stuart. Weather
6.40 Songs of Praise from the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham. A celebration of 120 years of the National Children's Home. (Ceefax)
7.15 Sports Review of the Year. A host of top sporting stars gather at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster for this year's live celebration of achievements in the sporting world. As well as the announcement of the sportsmen and women of 1989 voted by viewers, there's also the Sports Personality of the Year trophy. The Bishop of Liverpool, a former England Test captain, will be making the presentations and the hosts are Desmond Lynam and Steve Rider
8.50 News with Michael Buerk. Weather
9.05 The Ginger Tree. The concluding episode of this series. Mary, now a wealthy and successful business woman, becomes involved with Kentaro again. Despite a deteriorating political situation she refuses to leave Japan but is faced with growing hostility. Finally the decision is taken out of her hands. (Ceefax)
10.05 Gloria in Excelsis Deo. An evocation in words and music of the spirit of Christmas, recorded in Paisley Abbey, with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Brass Ensemble
11.00 Facing Up to AIDS: Sex in the 90s. Young people talk frankly about their sexual experiences and how their attitudes have changed (r)
11.30 International Show Jumping. David Vine introduces highlights of the Crosse and Blackwell Christmas Cake Stakes. Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley commentate
12.35am Network East (r) **1.15am** Weather

SCOTTISH

6.00 TV-am begins with an RSPB film; **6.30** Animals in Action. Wildlife documentary series. **7.00** It's Stardust. Children's entertainment presented by Alvin Stardust
8.00 David Frost on Sunday
9.25 The Disney Club. The team go Christmas shopping in Walt Disney World; and music is provided by Neneh Cherry
10.45 Glen Michael's Cartoon Cavalcade
11.15 Link talks to disabled playwright Tom Lennon
11.30 One Small Step **12.00** The Human Factor: The Gift of Life. Reporter Ted Harrison is waiting for a kidney transplant in the last of the series. But a kidney for him inevitably involves the death of someone else. For the relatives it's a difficult decision
12.30 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records **12.55** Scotland Today
1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
1.10 Eyewitness presented by Carson Black, Trevor Phillips, Paul Ross, Jan Rowland and Sebastian Scott
2.00 Film: The Battle of Britain (1969), starring Laurence Olivier, Kenneth More, Michael Caine and Susannah York. A dramatized version of the epic battle. Directed by Guy Hamilton
4.30 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game presented by Jim Bowen
5.00 Scotsport. Jim White introduces the best of the weekend's action, including a top Premier League football match and highlights of this afternoon's match from England – Everton versus Manchester City. Plus football news from David Livingstone
6.00 Riding the Waves, Catching the Wind. Highlights of the British National Wave Sailing Championships from Tiree
6.30 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather **6.35** Scotland Today
6.40 Dial a Christmas Carol with Gloria Hunniford at St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge. To take part ring 01-222 8000 or 01-222 8070 after 4.00pm
7.15 The Ruth Rendell Mystery Movie: The Veiled One ((Oracle) (see Choice)
9.15 The Two of Us Christmas Special: Wedded Miss. After years of avoiding the subject, Elaine finally agrees to marry Ashley and they plan a romantic honeymoon skiing in Switzerland. But their plans do not go as smoothly as they had hoped. Starring Nicholas Lyndhurst and Janet Dibley (r)
10.15 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
10.35 Spitting Image. Topical adult puppet show
11.05 Night Flyte William McIlvanney discusses the changing role of women in Scotland
12.00 Batman: The Making of a Hero. A behind the scenes look at the making of *Batman* starring Jack Nicholson
12.30am Film: The Red Circle (1970), starring Alain Delon. After his release from prison Corey is determined to go straight. French film with English subtitles.
3.00 Pick of the Week
3.30 The ITV Chart Show (r)
4.25 Jobfinder
5.05 ITN Morning News. Ends at **6.00**

GRAMPIAN

As Scottish except: **10.45am** Robosiory. **11.15** Jerusalem of Heaven and Earth **11.45-12.00** Link **12.30pm-1.00** Jack Thompson Down Under **2.00** The Forgotten Bomber **3.00** Film: Little Miss Marker. **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **11.05** Prisoner: Cell Block H **12.00** Prisoner – The Inside Story **12.30am** Quiz Night **1.00-3.00** Film: Before Winter Comes

BBC 2

7.30 Playbus (r) **7.50** Jimbo and the Jet Set (r) **7.55** Is That a Fact? (r) **8.10** The Hallo Spencer Show! **8.35** Umbrella **8.50** Smoggies **9.15** Corners (r) **9.30** Visionaries (r) **9.55** Blue Peter Omnibus (r) **10.45** Maid Marian and Her Merry Men (r) **11.10** Boxpops **11.50** The O Zone **12.10** Reportage Update
1.00 Film: It's That Man Again (1943, b/w), starring Tommy Handley. A town mayor is in trouble when he invests the council's annual budget in a bombed London theatre. Directed by Walter Forde.
2.20 40 Minutes: All about Ambridge (r) (Ceefax)
3.00 Film: The Colditz Story (1954, b/w), starring John Mills and Eric Portman. Drama based on a true story about a group of British prisoners of war who plan an escape from the highly fortified German prison camp. Directed by Guy Hamilton.
4.35 Ruth Etting in Knee Deep in Music. (b/w). with Nat Carr
5.00 Rugby Special. Chris Rea presents highlights from the closing stage of the Toshiba Divisional Championship.
6.00 Ski Sunday. David Vine introduces coverage of the latest action from the Men's Downhill in Val Gardena
6.35 The Money Programme
7.15 The Natural World: Under the Ice. A hole was drilled through ice two metres thick to make this film about life in the ice sea in the Antarctic (Ceefax)
8.05 Christmas on Two. A preview of seasonal programmes
8.10 Rhythms of the World. A profile of Colombian Joe Arroyo
9.05 Film: Weird Science (1985), starring Kelly LeBrock. Two young computer geniuses decide to use their knowledge to create the perfect female. Directed by John Hughes. (Ceefax)
10.35 The Unforgettable Nat King Cole (r) Ends at **12.10am**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Hallelujah! (r) **6.30** Flight over Spain. *Baleares* **7.00** A Gardener's Guide (r) **7.30** Box Office Weekly **8.00** David the Gnome **8.30** Boy Dominic (r) **9.00** Dennis
9.25 Orientations. Asian magazine
10.00 A Week in Politics. Looks at calls for Westminster to have more scrutiny over European legislation
11.00 Pob's Programme (r) **11.30** The Henderson Kids **12.00** The Waltons **1.00** Land of the Giants
2.00 Film: Lured (1947, b/w), starring Lucille Ball and Boris Karloff. An American showgirl agrees to act as bait to lure a maniac. Directed by Douglas Sirk **3.55** Rhapsody in Blue Jeans. Hungarian cartoon
4.00 Art of the Western World. *Masters of the Baroque*
4.30 Moving Stills looks at a book by Arnnet Francis depicting black children on three continents
4.40 Stones and Flies follows Richard Long on a three-week walk in the Mauritanian Sahara
5.25 News summary and weather
5.30 American Football. La Rams versus San Francisco 49ers
6.30 The Wonder Years. American comedy series
7.00 Skyscraper. Final episode in the series following the construction of a New York skyscraper
8.00 The Media Show. Includes a seasonal look at the Disney studios in Hollywood
9.00 One Hour with Jonathan Ross. Phil Daniels, Cyndi Lauper and The Creatures
10.00 Film: The Knack (1965, b/w), starring Michael Crawford and Rita Tushingham. Comedy about a naive girl who meets a young schoolteacher desperate to succeed with the opposite sex. Directed by Richard Lester
11.40 American Football Cincinnati Bengals versus Houston Oilers
1.10am-2.05 The World Games Ends at **2.05**

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES: **11.05am** See Hear! **11.55-1.00** Time for Sport **1.15am-1.20** News and weather NORTHERN IRELAND: **12.20pm-1.00** Tomorrow's Farm **3.00** Farming Christmas Special **3.30-3.50** Birds of the Foreshore
ANGLIA As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00** Farming Diary **2.00** Highway to Heaven **2.55-3.25** Wheel of Fortune **5.35** Bullseye **6.05-6.30** Guinness Records **11.05** Prisoner: Cell Block – **12.00** Mr Corbett's Ghost **1.05am** Film: Connecting Rooms **3.00** Transmission **4.00** Throb **4.30-5.05** Pick of the Week
BORDER As Scottish except: **12.25pm-1.00** Border Perspectives **2.00** Cover Story **2.30-3.25** Coronation Street **5.35-6.30** Scotsport **11.05** Prisoner: Cell Block H **12.00** Prisoner – Inside Story **12.30am** Quiz Night **1.00** Film: Before Winter Comes **3.00** Pick of the Week **3.30** Chart Show **4.25-5.00** Jobfinder
CENTRAL As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00** Here and Now **2.00** Highway to Heaven **2.55-3.25** Best and Marsh **5.35** Bullseye **6.05-6.30** ALF **11.05** Prisoner: Cell Block H **12.05am** Film: Anne of a Thousand Days **2.40** Chart Show **3.35** Pick of the Week **4.10-5.05** Jobfinder
CHANNEL As Scottish except: **12.35pm-1.00** Les Francais Chez-Vous **5.35-6.30** Magnum **11.05** Tonight. . . In Cabaret **12.05am** Human Factor **12.35** Film: Butterfly **2.35** Pick of the Week **3.05** Beyond 2000 **4.00** Coast to Coast People **4.30-5.00** ALF
GRANADA As Scottish except: **12.30pm** This is your Right **12.40-1.00** What the MP's Say **5.35-6.30** Coronation Street **11.05** Prisoner: Cell Block H **12.00** Prisoner – Inside Story **12.30am** Quiz Night **1.00** Film: Before Winter Comes **3.00** Pick of the Week **3.30** Chart Show **4.25-5.00** Jobfinder
HTV WEST As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00** Farming **2.00-3.25** Film: Silent Gun Chart Show **2.25** Derrick **3.35** Hit Man and Her **4.35-5.00** Jobfinder
HTV WALES As HTV West except: **2.00-2.30pm** Day Return **2.30-3.25** Fall Guy
LONDON As Scottish except: **10.45am** Link **11.00-12.00** Meditation **12.30pm** Ski with Klammer **12.48-12.55** Police 5 **2.00** McCloud **2.55** Bullseye **3.25** The Match **5.35-6.30** Hart to Hart **11.05** Peter Ustinov's Glasnost and Glamour **12.05am** American Documentary **1.05** The Fugitive **2.05** Film: Bachelor of Hearts **4.00-5.00** The Silk Road
TSW As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00** Farming News **2.00** Mother Goose **2.10-2.55** ALF **5.35** Double Deckers **6.00-6.30** Country Christmas **11.05** Ellis Island **12.00** Hitchcock Presents **12.30am** Quiz Night **1.00** Film: Before Winter Comes **3.00** Pick of the Week **3.30** Chart Show **4.25-5.00** Jobfinder
TVS As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00** Agenda **5.35-6.30** Magnum **11.05** Tonight . . . In Cabaret **12.05am** Human Factor **12.35** Film: Butterfly **2.35** Pick of the Week **3.05** Beyond 2000 **4.00** Coast to Coast People **4.30-5.00** ALF
TYNE TEES As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00** Jack Thompson Down Under **2.55-3.25** After Henry **5.35-6.30** Coronation Street **11.05** Inner Space **11.35** Cover Story **12.00** Prisoner – Inside Story **12.30am** Quiz Night **1.00** Film: Before Winter Comes **3.00** Pick of the Week **3.30** Chart Show **4.25-5.00** Jobfinder
ULSTER As Scottish except: **12.30pm-1.00** Preview **2.00** Farming Ulster **2.30-2.55** Early Ireland **5.35-6.30** Coronation Street **11.05** Prisoner: Cell Block H **12.00** Prisoner – Inside Story **12.30am** Quiz Night **1.00** Film: Before Winter Comes **3.00** Pick of the Week **3.30** Chart Show **4.25-5.00** Jobfinder
YORKSHIRE As Scottish except: **12.25pm** Goals on Sunday **12.50-1.00** News **5.35-6.30** Highway to Heaven **11.05** The Gamekeeper **11.35** Scrumdown **12.35am** Chart Show **1.35** Pick of the Week **2.05** Burke's Law **3.00** Grand Ole Opry **3.30** Music Box **4.30-5.00** Jobfinder
S4C Starts: **6.00am** Early Morning **9.00** Helping Henry **9.15** Hatoc **10.00** Week in Politics **11.00** Pob's Programme **11.30** Henderson Kids **12.00** Waltons **1.00pm** Art of the Western World **1.30** Nasser **2.30** Film: Christmas Holiday * **4.10** Three Stooges * **4.30** Equinox **5.30** American Football **6.30** Moving Stills **6.40** Sam Stelfan **7.00** O Bedwar Ban **7.15** Sam Tan **7.25** News **7.30** Emen **8.00** Hel Straeon **8.30** Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol **9.00** Wythnos Ym Mywyd **9.30** Y Duw Byw **9.35** Media Show **10.35** Jonathan Ross **11.40** American Football **1.10am** World Games **2.05** Closedown
RTE 1 Starts: **10.10am** Alles Gute **10.25** Buongiorno Italia **10.50** Rockschool **11.15** Mass **12.00** Film: Sanders of the River **1.30** The World – A Television History **1.55** First Edition **2.30** Film: Road to Bali **4.25** Film: Shillingbury Blowers **5.40** News **6.01** Ins 89 **6.35** Cosby Show **7.00** Highway to Heaven **8.00** Where in the World? **8.30** Glenroe **9.00** News **9.20** Daniel O'Donnell **10.20** Wish me Luck **12.15am** News, Closedown
NETWORK 2 Starts: **10.20am** Tarzan **11.30** Beat Box **1.30** To the Wales Quiz **1.55** Night the Animals Talked **2.20** Pulcinella **3.00** Flying Dutchman **5.20** Piano Plus **6.00** Nutt House **6.30** Travellin' Gourmet **6.55** Nuacht **7.00** Newsweek **7.30** Fair City **8.00** Cambodia – Year Ten **9.00** Game, Set and Match **10.55** Film: Heaven Can Wait **12.45am** Closedown

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am Hour of Power **7.00** Fun Factory **11.00** UK Top 50 **12.00** Beyond 2000 **1.00pm** That's Incredible **2.00** Superstars of Wrestling '89 **3.00** The Incredible Hulk **4.00** Emergency! **5.00** Eight is Enough **6.00** Family Ties **7.00** 21 Jump Street **8.00** Film: Little Big Man **10.30** Those Were the Days **11.00** Sky World News Tonight **11.30** The Paper Chase **12.30am** Entertainment This Week

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
5.00am Sky News Overnight **5.30** Fashion TV **6.30** The Best of the Frank Bough Interview **7.30** Roving Report **8.30** Those Were the Days **9.30** The Wall Street Journal **10.30** Fashion TV **11.30** Our World **12.30pm** The Editors **1.30** Those Were the Days **2.30** The Wall Street Journal **3.30** Entertainment This Week **4.30** Our World **5.30** Fashion TV **6.30** Entertainment This Week **7.30** Those Were the Days **8.30** The Editors **9.30** Meet the Press **10.30** Roving Report **11.30** Entertainment This Week **12.30am** The Editors **1.30** Entertainment This Week **2.30** Meet the Press **3.30** Entertainment This Week **4.30** Roving Report

SKY MOVIES

From **8.00am** The Satellite Shop
2.00pm The Adventures of the Wilderness Family (1975): A city family relocates to the Rockies
4.00 Off Beat (1986): Librarian Judge Reinhold sets out to impress policewoman Meg Tilly by posing as a fellow cop
6.00 Little Shop of Horrors (1986): Musical about a nerd, a clerk and a talking man-eating plant
7.40 Projector: David Castell previews a selection of forthcoming movies on Sky
8.00 Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl (1982): Live sketches backed by film clips and graphics
10.00 Drowning by Numbers (1988): Three sisters plan to murder their husbands
12.00 The Cotton Club (1984): 1930s gangster saga set in and around the famed Harlem nightspot. Starring Richard Gere
2.10am The Hitchhiker: Tonight's episode is *One Last Prayer*
2.35 The Stuff (1985): An addictive creamy substance emerges from the Alaskan soil
4.00 Fool for Love (1985): Tale of a tempestuous relationship. With Sam Shepard and Kim Basinger. Ends at **5.40am**

EUROSPORT

6.00am Hour of Power **7.00** Fun Factory **9.00** World Cup Skiing **10.00** Olympia International Show Jumping **11.00** Rugby League **12.00** World Cup Skiing **1.00pm** Olympia International Show Jumping **2.00** International Ice Hockey **5.00** World Cup Skiing **6.00** Tennis **8.00** Film: Hinein – The 1958 World Cup **10.00** Football **11.00** Skiing

MTV

6.00am Ray Cokes **10.30** The Big Picture **11.00** Top 20 **12.30pm** Trans Euro Express **1.00** Marcel Vanthilt **5.00** MTV Classics **6.00** Kristiane Backer **10.30** Week in Rock **11.00** XPO **12.00** Videos

SCREENSPORT

12.30am Drag Racing **1.30** Uni Royal Truckspeed Event **2.30** Argentina Football **4.15** Spanish Soccer **6.00** Karate **7.00** NFL '89 Highlights **8.00** Ice Hockey **10.00** Golf **12.00** Spanish Soccer **1.45pm** Motorcross **2.15** Golf **4.15** Argentina Football **6.00** Ice Hockey **8.00** US College Football **10.00** US Professional Boxing **11.30** English Rugby League

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo – all day in London, the Midlands, the North, South Wales, Avon and Somerset, Oxfordshire, central Scotland and Belfast and nationally between **5.00pm** and **7.00pm** and **MW** News on the half-hour from **5.30am** until **12.30pm**, then at **2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30**
5.00am Tim Smith **7.00** Bruno Brookes Breakfast Show **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **12.30pm** Pick of the Pops **3.00** Jakki Brambles **4.00** Chart Quiz **4.30** Chartbusters **5.00** Top 40 **7.00** The Anne Nightingale Request Show **9.00** Andy Kershaw **11.00-2.00am** Peebles on Sunday

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and **MW** News on the hour except **3.00pm, 4.00, 8.00**
4.00am David Allan **6.00** Graham Knight **7.30** Good Morning Sunday **9.05** Melodies For You **11.00** Desmond Carrington **2.00pm** Gilbert and Sullivan: The Grand Duke **4.45** Los Paraguayos in Concert **5.05** Charlie Chester **7.00** Living with Betty **7.30** Here's to the Next Time **8.30** Sunday Half-Hour **9.00** Your Hundred Best Tunes **10.05** Songs from the Shows **11.00** Sounds of Jazz **1.00am** Nightride **2.00-4.00** A Little Night Music.

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 In dulci jubilo: The first of two programmes of Christmas music from Baroque Germany. H. Praetorius (In dulci jubilo; Magnificat; Joseph lieber, Joseph mein); Samuel Scheidt (Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern: London Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble under Martin Neary; Winchester Cathedral Choir); M. Praetorius (Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme: Taverner Consort, Choir and Players under Andrew Parrott)
7.30 News
7.35 Haydn Originals: Overture, La fedeltà premiata (Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra under Fischer); Quartet in C, Op 54 No 2 (Endellion Quartet); Symphony No 45 "Farewell" (Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra under Adam Fischer)
8.30 News
8.35 Your Concert Choice: Albéniz (Piano Concerto No 1: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Bátiz, with Aldo Ciccolini, piano); Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Op 1 No 1: Hagen Quartet); Frank Martin (Concerto for seven wind, timpani, percussion and strings: Suisse Romande under Ernest Ansermet); Tchaikovsky (Duo "Romeo and Juliet": Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi, with Suzanne Murphy, soprano, Keith Lewis, tenor); C. Scott (Lotus Land: John Ogdon, piano); W. Alwyn (Symphony No 3: London Philharmonic Orchestra under the composer)
10.30 Music Weekly with Michael Oliver. Fauré's Headmaster: A lasting influence on Fauré's church music is suggested by Richard Langham Smith; Consort Music: Anthony Payne discusses his new string quintet; Una mescolanza di tutti generi: The world of Haydn's late masses, in the light of Salieri's comment, is explored by Misha Donat
11.15 BBC Philharmonic under Günther Herbig, with Cécile Ousset, piano, performs Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini); Shostakovich (Symphony No 4)
12.50pm Tatiana Nikolaeva, piano, performs Bach (Ricercare a 3 "A Musical Offering"; French Suite No 4); Schumann (Etudes symphoniques, Op 13)
1.50 Poet of the Month: Stephen Romer reads three of his poems, inspired by the city of Paris, where he has lived for 10 years
1.55 The Ottoboni Connection: The English Chamber Orchestra under Raymond Leppard, with Janet Baker, mezzo, performs music sponsored by the 17th-century Italian cardinal and librettist Pietro Ottoboni. Corelli (Concerto grosso in F, Op 6 No 9); A. Scarlatti (Cantate pastorale per la Natività); Albinoni (Grave and Allegro "Sonata a cinque in G, Op 2 No 6")
2.30 Divertimenti: Dvořák (String Sextet); Lutoslawski (Silesian Melodies for four violins); Mendelssohn (Octet)
3.45 Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Pierre Boulez performs Stravinsky (Symphonies of wind instruments); Boulez (Notations I-IV); Bartók (The Wooden Prince)
5.00 Celebrity Recital: The pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski performs Bach (Partita No 2); Mozart (Sonata, K 576); Schumann (Arabeske in C, Op 18); Chopin (Mazurkas: Op 33 No 4; Op 24 No 2; Nocturne, Op 9 No 1; Fantasie-Impromptu, Op 66)
6.15 The 1989 Reith Lectures: Beyond the Tunnel of history, by Jacques Derras. Part 4: Remembering the Somme. Has the Second World War led us to ignore the lessons of the First? (r)
7.00 Messiah: Part 1. Live from the Royal Festival Hall, London. The London Philharmonic under Georg Solti; London Philharmonic Choir, with Joan Rodger, soprano, Jard Van Nes, mezzo, Keith Lewis, tenor, Gwynne Howell, bass, perform Handel's oratorio, incl **8.00** The performance of *Messiah* over the last 200 years is examined by George Pratt **8.20** Parts 2 and 3
10.05 Third Ear: Robert Hewison chairs a discussion on a current issue
10.30 Advent Sequence: Music and readings from St Paul's Church, Salford. The BBC Northern Singers perform Vox dicentis "Naylor"; What Love Is This? "Leighton"; O Lord Thou Art My God "Wesley"; Evening Hymn "Jackson"
11.30 Max Rostal Plays Schubert (Fantasie in C, D 934: with Colin Horsley, piano)
12.00 News
12.05am Close

WORLD SERVICE

5.00pm German Features 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.50 Financial News 5.55 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours; News Summary 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 Nature Now 9.30 Financial Review 9.40 Book Choice 9.45 Short Story: Christmas Shopping 10.01 Science in Action 10.30 In Praise of God 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 From Our Own Correspondent 11.30 Londres Midi 12.01pm Play of the Week: Mary Rose 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours; News Summary 1.30 Sports Roundup 1.45 Personal View 2.01 In Praise of Bees 2.30 Anything Goes 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 From Britain's Music Festival 4.00 News 4.09 News about Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Nachrichten 4.40 German Features 5.00 News 5.09 Book Choice 5.15 Club 648 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Nachrichten 6.40 German Features 7.54 Nachrichten 8.00 News 8.09 Personal View 8.30 Counterpoint 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 Letter From America 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am In Praise of God 1.01 The Good Book 1.30 Readings from the Good Book 1.45 The Art of James Galway 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 World of Music 2.30 Science in Action 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Good Books 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Letter From America 4.45 Nachrichten und Presseschau

RADIO 4

LW (s) Stereo on **FM**
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing; Weather **6.10** Prelude with Marjorie Lofthouse (s)
6.30 Morning Has Broken (s) **6.55** Weather **7.00** News **7.10** Sunday Papers
7.15 On Your Farm: Claire Powell visits Bev Wright, farm manager at HM Prison near Doncaster **7.40** Sunday, incl **7.55** Weather **8.00** News **8.10** Sunday Papers **8.50** Appeal by Dame Josephine Barnes on behalf of Women's Health Concern
9.00 News **9.10** Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter From America (r)
9.30 Morning Service from St Peter's, Stockton on Tees, with the Rt Rev David Jenkins, Bishop of Durham
10.15 The Archers
11.15 News Stand
11.30 Pick of the Week (s) (r)
12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley talks with actress Pauline Collins **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World This Weekend **1.55** Shipping Forecast
9.00 Gardeners' Question Time
2.30 Classic Serial: The Sign of Four. Part 2: The Great Agra Treasure, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (r)
3.30 Chocoholics Anonymous (s) (see Choice)
4.00 Pillars of Society: In the last of six programmes, Sir Roy Strong asks whether Westminster Abbey is ready to meet the challenge of the Nineties
4.47 Treasure Islands: Children's book programme with Michael Rosen (r)
5.00 News, Down Your Way: Dora Saint, better known to her readers as Miss Read, explores the village of Wood Green in the Cotswolds and compares it with her fictional village of Thrush Green
5.40 Really Not A Soldier: The story of the late Rupert Westmacott who enlisted in the New Zealand army during the First World War (r) **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 News
6.15 In The Wester Ghats: Dr Ray Barron in the hill country of southern India (r)
6.30 Europhile: News and events affecting people around Europe presented from Paris by Philippe Chateney and Christiane Collange (r)
7.00 News; Cat's Whiskers: Presented by Julie First and Adrian Moorhouse
7.30 Bookshelf (r)
8.00 Punters: An opportunity for listeners to report on life's problems, injustices and quirks (r)
8.40 Memories of Ralph Richardson: Taken from the novel *Not Prince Hamlet*, by Michael Meyer (s)
9.00 News; Rich Pickings: An anthology of poetry and prose about love, read by Hannah Gordon and David Suchet (r)
9.15 The Natural History Programme (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 News
10.15 One Bohemian Night: Dramatized feature by Paul Allen about the Czech writer Jaroslav Hasek and his classic comedy creation *The Good Soldier Swejk* (r)
11.00 In Committee with John Turnbull
11.30 Seeds of Faith: Part 4: John the Baptist. Pauline Webb lights an Advent candle for contemporary martyrs (s)
12.00-12.30am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping Forecast
FM as **LW** except: **1.55-2.00pm** Programme News **4.00-6.00** Options: **4.00** Something in the City **4.30** Understanding Parliament (s) **5.00** Wordpower Writing **5.30** Buongiorno Italia!

SCOTLAND

FM and **MW**
6.00am As Radio 4 **7.45** Letter From America **7.59** Weather **8.00** As Radio 4 **8.10** Greetings Programme **9.00** News; Weather **9.03** It Strikes a Chord **9.30** A Sense of Place, incl **10.00** News **10.02** The Reel Band **11.00** News **11.02** Sunday Joint, incl **12.00** News **12.30pm** Naked Radio **1.00** News **1.05** Gerry Davis **2.00** News **2.02** Youth's The Season **2.47** The Pianist Banowetz **3.30-12.43am** As Radio 4
FM as above except: **3.30pm** Deanamaid Adhradh **4.00-6.00** Options (see Radio 4) **6.30-8.00** Options: **6.30** The Riddle of the Stones **7.00** Ticket to Ride **7.30** Franc-Parler

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; FM 88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM 90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.6. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Radio Clyde (Glasgow): 1152kHz/261m; FM 102.5. Radio Forth (Edinburgh): 1548kHz/194m; FM 97.3.

Kremlin cuts spending on armed forces

Moscow (Reuter) — The Soviet Union said yesterday that it would slash military spending by more than 8 per cent next year as it shifts the armed forces from an offensive to a more defensive role.

Colonel-General Nikolai Chervov, head of a department of the General Staff, told a news conference the budget would be cut by 8.2 per cent to 70.98 billion roubles (equivalent to £7.1 billion). "The new political thinking in defence doctrines allowed the military to reduce the budget in practical terms," he said.

The news conference marked the first time that the Soviet Union's complete armed forces budget had been given to foreign journalists ahead of publication in the official media.

Military spending this year amounted to 77.3 billion roubles, according to the first fully disclosed figures for defence spending, released in June.

General Chervov also gave the most detailed breakdown to date of the armed forces, saying that from January their combined strength would be 3,993,000.

The forces will be equipped with 4,045 missile launchers of all kinds, 10,000 missile warheads, 63,900 tanks, 8,207 combat aircraft and with 157 large surface ships.

General Chervov said offensive weapons were being reduced, operational training was being revised and most big military manoeuvres had been cut.

President Gorbachov has begun cutting the armed forces in an attempt to lessen international tension and free much-needed funds to help modernize the economy.

General Chervov said: "We were guided by (Mr Gorbachov's policy of) openness. The (budget) cuts are one way of building confidence."

A year ago Mr Gorbachov told the United Nations that 500,000 troops would be cut from the Soviet armed forces. General Chervov said 256,000 of these had already left.

This year's 1989 US defence budget was $300 billion (£187.5 billion), but the Soviet Union says the low wages paid to Soviet conscripts — around seven roubles a month — partly explains the large discrepancy in military spending between the superpowers.

"The budget should make it possible for the state to maintain reasonable military sufficiency and also improve living conditions for the army," General Chervov said.

An unofficial army protest group was formed last month to protest against poor living conditions, long hours and low wages. There have also been protests over lack of housing for retired officers and their families.

Pledges on quota

Continued from page 1

scheme is to persuade people to stay there, but in the knowledge that if the very worst happened there would be somewhere for them to go."

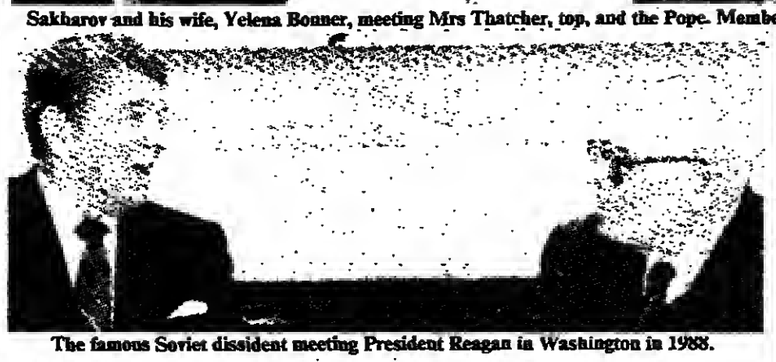
Mrs Thatcher, who was reported to have been surprised by the scale of opposition, nevertheless let it be known that she was determined to fulfil the Government's policy of maintaining the success of the Hong Kong economy.

Mr Hurd spelt out the Government's determination to act when he said yesterday: "There is no hoping that if we just stay quiet and do nothing confidence will return to Hong Kong without a nationality package. That is just not an option."Mrs Thatcher will receive an assessment from her chief whip, Mr Tim Renton, on Monday about the size of the certain revolt facing her and the prospects of legislation getting through. She was warned last week that there would be trouble over legislation but its magnitude was unexpected.

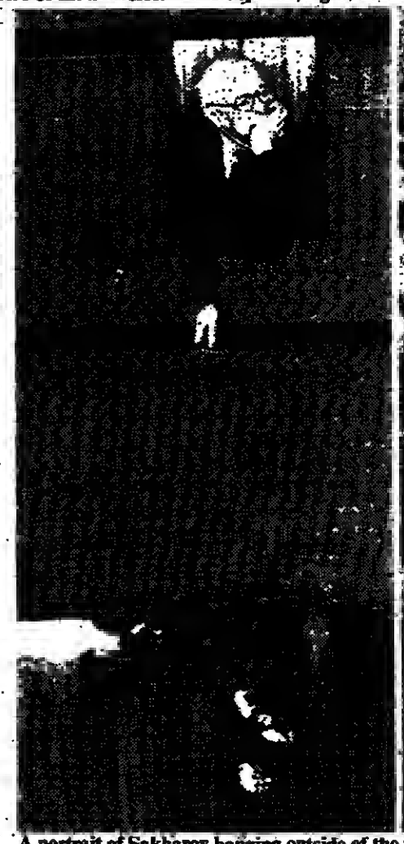
Labour Party sources confirmed yesterday that it would not support any change in nationality law which discriminated on the basis of wealth and power, and which discriminated against people in other parts of the world who had a right to come to Britain but were not being allowed in because of the restrictive use of the immigration laws.

Soviet dissident who was brought in from exile

Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, meeting Mrs Thatcher, top, and the Pope. Members of the Praesidium and deputies, right, hold a minute's silence in memory of Sakharov.



The famous Soviet dissident meeting President Reagan in Washington in 1988.



A portrait of Sakharov hanging outside of the flat where he died, left, and the Nobel Peace Prize winner taking part in a protest rally in Moscow in February.

Moscow salutes Sakharov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The people of the Soviet Union and its leaders yesterday paid tribute to Andrei Sakharov, the nuclear physicist and human rights campaigner, who returned from exile to become a respected figure in Soviet politics.

Sakharov died suddenly late on Thursday in his Moscow apartment at the age of 68, apparently from a heart attack.

President Gorbachov described him as "a man of honour" and his death as "a great loss, a very great loss for society. It was possible to agree or disagree with him, but he was a man of great integrity".

Even Mr Yegor Ligachov, the conservative Politburo member who had little sympathy with Sakharov's political views, said he had done much for the Soviet Union. Mr Boris Yeltsin described him as someone who had "stood all his life for justice and truth and never betrayed his high moral principles".

However, even in death Sakharov has caused controversy. The form of the funeral was yesterday the subject of disagreement between his widow and the Soviet leadership.

Although a funeral commission has been set up, his family was still hoping for a private funeral to take place today.

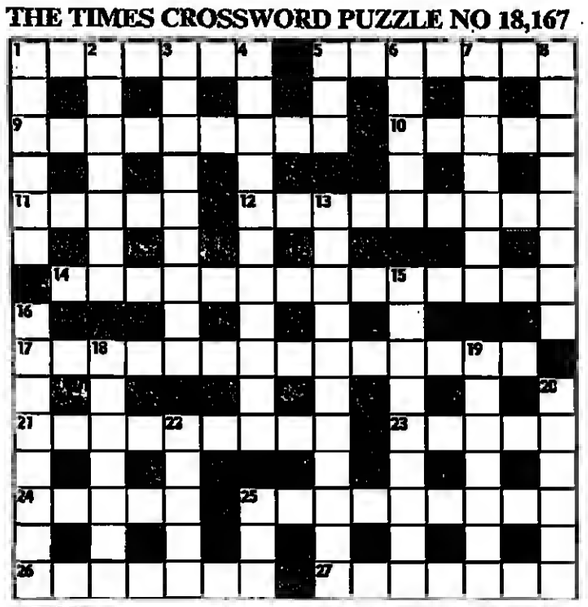
If the authorities get their way — and they will be supported by the many people who will want to pay their last respects to Sakharov — his body will lie in state over the weekend at the Academy of Sciences, the institution which eventually nominated him as a Soviet Congress member.

It will then be taken to the sports stadium on the edge of Moscow which has become the regular venue for human rights rallies.

This would then be followed on Monday by a state funeral at the Novodevichy monastery in central Moscow, the resting place of many nineteenth century Russian intellectuals and, recently a number of Soviet leaders.

The visionary, page 9
Obituary, page 12

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,167



ACROSS

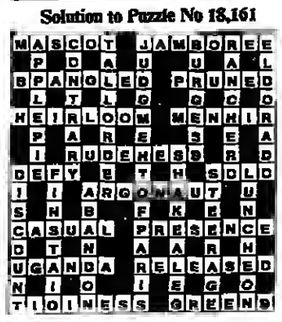
1 Without hesitation, soldiers charge to control the fighting (7).
5 Syndicate member has opportunity to make a mess (7).
9 Make advances, following a gain without a battle (9).
10 There's some reason why the wealthy live in Kent (5).
11 The idiot starts training without even reasonable precautions (5).
12 Pointer to origin of a plant (9).
14 The way a forest blocks a means of progress (8-6).
17 Fresh plans for newfangled steamer anger Royal Navy (14).
21 Good timing required to play this against four — or six (9).
23 Tiara created for such courts (5).
24 Make amends to Oriental after a fashion (5).
25 Not to be left out of bag to boil to stew (9).
26 Revised letter dictated by journalist on purpose (7).
27 Indoor work disorganisation (7).

DOWN

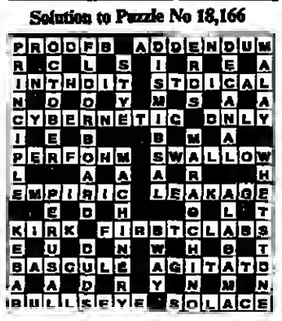
1 Tailor working in the market (6).
2 Quick to conceal anger, and very impartial (7).
3 On which to paint and redecorate about one degree above freezing (4-5).
4 Thrashing a lout with cane I'd find edifying (11).
5 Perhaps Tommy got old! (3).
6 By no means sound knowledge (5).
7 Old-fashioned couple taken in by our name (7).
8 West by South to so spendid a passage (8).
13 Small regiment comprising about a company — deplorable! (11).
15 He treats the criminal (9).
16 Put on overtime for equitation training (8).
18 "My love doth so _____ him" said Desdemona (7).
19 Twister in rent business (7).
20 Imitation gun to discharge outside (6).
22 Introduce exercises in German and turn over (5).
25 This woman is fussy (3).

Concise crossword, page 42

Solution to Puzzle No 18,161



Solution to Puzzle No 18,166



A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the *possible definitions is correct?*

By Philip Howard

DUCTILE
a. Wavy Dutch tiling
b. Tractable, amenable
c. A prefect's hat at Winchester

MURINE
a. Concerned with mice
b. Jaundiced urine
c. An old Roman purple dye

FEATOUS
a. Handsome
b. Accomplished
c. The embryo of a mammal

BARGUEST
a. A canine ghost
b. A non-paying freeloader in a pub
c. To careen a ship

Answers on page 14

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by *the appropriate code.*

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heref& & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23- M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

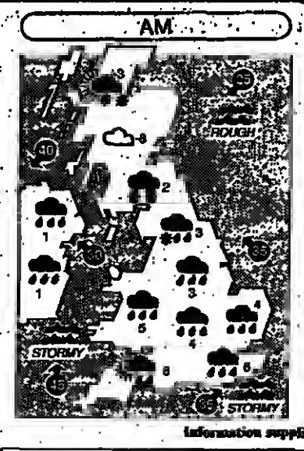
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

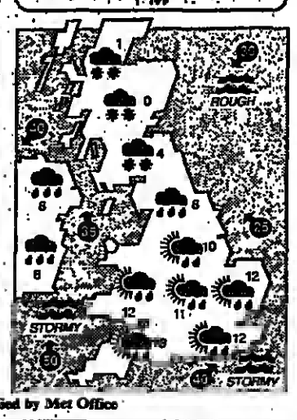
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: A D Soutar, Firdene, Redlynch, Salisbury; J O C Bateman, Lynton, Dodsley Lane, Midhurst, Sussex; K Mitchell, Bavons Avenue, Grimsby; E M Wade, Caroldene, Gwendolen Avenue, Putney, London; J Nicolson, Mamore Crescent, Fort William, Inverneshire.

WEATHER

Heavy rain and gale-force winds will spread across England and Wales into Northern Ireland and Scotland during the morning. Brighter weather will spread from the South-west later. In Wales and northern England the rain will turn to sleet and snow and there may be blizzards over the Grampians. Gales will affect all areas. Outlook: stormy and unsettled at first, calmer and colder on Monday.





Information supplied by Met Office

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	68	f	Majorca	20	68	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s	Malaga	20	68	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Malta	20	68	s
Algiers	26	79	s	Melb'rne	17	63	c
Amst'dm	5	41	c	Mexico C*	16	54	s
Athens	17	63	s	Miami*	20	68	s
Bahrain	20	68	r	Milan	5	41	d
Barbados*	-	-	-	Montreal*	-18	-2	s
Barcelona	18	64	f	Moscow	-8	18	sn
Belgrade	16	61	c	Munich	10	50	c
Berlin	11	52	c	Nairobi	26	79	f
Bermuda*	20	68	s	Naples	18	64	c
Biarritz	23	73	f	N Delhi	21	70	s
Borde'x	13	55	r	N York*	-4	25	s
Brussels	6	48	c	Nice	15	59	c
Budapest	14	57	s	Oslo	-14	7	sn
B Aires*	27	81	f	Paris	11	52	r
Cairo	20	68	s	Peking	5	41	s
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Perth	25	77	f
C'blanca	24	75	s	Prague	9	48	r
Chicago*	-15	5	s	Reykjvik	-7	18	s
Ch'church	16	61	c	Rhodes	17	63	f
Cologne	11	52	c	Rio de J	28	82	c
C'phagn	-2	28	c	Riyadh	15	59	s
Corfu	16	61	c	Rome	17	63	f
Dublin	4	39	c	Salzburg	7	45	f
Dubrovnik	15	59	c	S Frisco*	11	52	s
Faro	18	64	c	Santiago*	27	81	s
Florence	16	64	c	S Paulo*	23	73	c
Frankfurt	10	50	r	Seoul	4	39	c
Funchal	21	70	f	Sing'por	26	79	r
Geneva	13	55	r	St'kholm	-19	-2	s
Gibraltar	22	72	s	Strasb'rg	8	46	c
Helsinki	-16	3	s	Sydney	18	65	f
Hong K	18	68	f	Tangier	20	68	f
Innsbruck	8	46	f	Tel Aviv	16	61	f
Istanbul	11	52	s	Tenerife	24	75	s
Jeddah	27	81	s	Tokyo	16	55	s
Jo'burg*	14	57	f	Toronto*	-11	12	sn
Karachi	23	73	f	Tunis	23	73	s
L Palmas	22	72	s	Valencia	21	70	f
Le Tquet	10	50	c	Vanc'ver*	1	34	f
Lisbon	18	64	f	Venice	7	45	fg
Locarno	5	41	fg	Vienna	13	55	f
L Angels*	18	64	s	Warsaw	10	50	s
Luxembg	9	48	r	Wash'ton*	0	32	s
Luxor	22	72	s	Wel'ngton	19	66	c
Madrid	14	57	d	Zurich	11	52	r

* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

MANCHESTER

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 04C (39F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 02C (36F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.34 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

GLASGOW

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 02C (36F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -08C (18F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 3.5 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	-	.41	5	41	rain
Hunstanton	-	.61	10	50	rain
B'pool Airpt	-	.34	5	41	sleet
Morecambe	-	.15	5	41	rain
Aspatria	-	.01	6	37	cloudy
B'ham Airpt	-	1.10	6	43	rain
Bristol (Ctl)	0.2	.88	13	55	rain
Buxton	-	.79	1	34	snow
London	0.8	.60	14	57	shower
Manchester	-	.38	4	39	rain
N'cstl-o-Tyne	-	.17	5	41	rain
Anglesey	-	.43	5	41	sleet
Cardiff (Ctl)	-	.72	11	52	shower
Colwyn Bay	-	1.17	6	37	snow
Aberdeen	2.0	.01	0	32	snow
Aviemore	-	-	-3	27	fog
Edinburgh	-	.88	2	36	snow
Glasgow	3.5	-	2	36	bright
Kinloss	-	.19	-1	30	snow
Lerwick	0.5	.07	1	34	snow
Stornoway	2.0	.16	-4	39	snow
Tiree	6.2	-	2	36	sunny
Wick	4.4	.08	0	32	snow

These are Thursday's figures

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	6	37sl	Guernsey	11	52f
B'mgham	5	41c	Inverness	-2	28s
Blackpool	5	41c	Jersey	11	52f
Bristol	7	45f	London	5	45c
Cardiff	6	43s	M'chester	5	41c
Edinburgh	-2	28f	Newcastle	4	39c
Glasgow	2	36sn	N'ckaway	6	43r

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 3.52 pm to 8.01 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.11 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.21 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.16 am

LONDON

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14C (57F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 08C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 88 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.8 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.8 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 979.6 millibars, steady.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: London, 14C (57F), lowest day max: Aviemore, Highlands, -03C (27F); highest rainfall: Brawdy, Dyfed, 1.5 in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Hebrides, 6.2 hr.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.58	6.9	4.23	7.2	London Bridge	4.38	6.8	5.06	7.0
Aberdeen	3.38	4.1	3.36	4.3	Aberdeen	4.27	3.9	4.21	4.1
Avonmouth	9.29	12.6	9.57	12.0	Avonmouth	10.10	12.0	10.38	11.4
Belfast	1.00	3.3	1.17	3.8	Belfast	1.52	6.2	2.06	3.7
Cardiff	9.14	11.6	9.42	11.2	Cardiff	9.55	11.2	10.23	10.7
Devonport	8.11	5.5	8.42	5.1	Devonport	8.50	5.3	9.21	4.9
Dover	12.59	6.5	1.20	6.3	Dover	1.40	6.4	2.05	6.1
Falmouth	7.41	5.3	8.12	4.9	Falmouth	8.20	5.1	8.51	4.7
Glasgow	3.03	4.7	2.48	5.3	Glasgow	3.47	4.6	3.31	5.2
Harwich	1.47	3.8	2.13	4.0	Harwich	2.29	3.9	2.58	3.8
Holyhead	12.22	5.3	12.36	5.6	Holyhead	1.10	5.1	1.23	5.4
Hull	6.40	7.0	6.44	7.3	Hull	6.24	6.7	9.25	7.1
Ilfracombe	8.13	9.0	8.40	6.5	Ilfracombe	8.57	8.6	9.22	6.1
King's Lynn	8.49	6.3	8.49	6.5	King's Lynn	9.35	6.0	9.31	6.8
Leith	4.48	5.6	5.11	5.4	Leith	5.37	5.2	5.59	5.2
Liverpool	1.14	9.0	1.33	9.2	Liverpool	1.59	8.7	2.16	8.9
Lowestoft	Noon	2.3	11.48	2.5	Lowestoft	—	—	12.52	2.2
Margate	2.01	4.7	2.34	4.7	Margate	2.48	4.6	3.21	4.9
Milford Haven	6.33	6.9	6.58	6.5	Milford Haven	9.17	6.6	9.41	6.2
Newquay	7.25	6.9	7.50	6.5	Newquay	8.10	6.7	8.35	6.2
Oban	7.47	3.9	8.25	3.6	Oban	8.27	3.7	9.05	3.4
Penzance	7.15	5.6	7.46	5.2	Penzance	7.56	5.4	8.30	4.9
Portland	9.00	2.3	9.44	2.0	Portland	9.57	2.2	10.21	1.8
Portsmouth	1.33	4.6	1.36	4.5	Portsmouth	2.18	4.6	2.20	4.4
Shoreham	1.14	6.2	1.22	6.0	Shoreham	1.56	6.0	2.07	5.8
Southampton	12.59	4.5	1.09	4.3	Southampton	1.49	4.3	1.55	4.1
Swansea	8.33	9.2	8.59	8.8	Swansea	9.15	8.8	9.39	8.4
Tees	5.58	5.2	6.05	5.4	Tees	6.46	5.0	6.50	5.2
W'ton-on-Nze	1.41	4.0	2.11	4.1	W'ton-on-Nze	2.23	4.0	2.56	4.0

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.
Times are GMT

TODAY			TOMORROW		
Sun rises: 8.01 am	Sun sets: 3.52 pm		Sun rises: 8.01 am	Sun sets: 3.52 pm	
Moon sets: 10.55 am	Moon rises: 8.25 pm		Moon sets: 11.12 am	Moon rises: 8.42 pm	
Last Quarter December 19			Last Quarter December 19		

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1989. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 01-782 5000 and at 124 Portman Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow G41 1EJ, telephone 041 420 1000. Saturday, December 16, 1989. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Town & Country rate card

A top 15 Building Society.
Founded 1853. Assets exceed £2,000 million. Around 1,250 branches and agencies.
Founder Member of the Building Societies Association.
Shares and deposits in this Society are Trustee Investments.

11·50% NET = 15·33%* with 180 days notice of withdrawal
11·25% NET = 15·00%* with 90 days notice of withdrawal
A minimum investment £5000.
Interest paid annually on 30th September.
Interest rate 0.25% less than current rate if interest paid half yearly and 0.5% less if paid monthly.

SUPER 60

11·00%† NET = 14·67%* Balance £25,000 - £500,000
10·50%† NET = 14·00%* £5,000 - £24,999
10·15%† NET = 13·53%* £500 - £4,999
No penalty withdrawal given 60 days' notice or if balance after withdrawal remains above £5000. Immediate withdrawal** with loss of just 60 days' interest.
A minimum investment of £500 or £1,000 if monthly income. Interest rate of 0.25% less than current rate if interest paid half yearly and 0.5% less if paid monthly.

SUPERSHARES

10·25%† NET £25,000 - £200,000 9·60%† NET £2,500 - £24,999
10·00%† NET £10,000 - £24,999 9·25%† NET £500 - £2,499
9·75%† NET £5,000 - £9,999 6·75%† NET £1 - £499
Immediate withdrawal** with no penalty.

†Interest credited or paid annually on 30th June. *Subject to conditions. On an equivalent rate to income tax payers at 25%. All rates quoted are variable.
Send the coupon now to: Town & Country Building Society, FREEPOST 98, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1BR. Or telephone 0255 222555.
Terms and Conditions effective 6/11/89 until further notice.

Please send full information about Town & Country accounts.
Name
Address
Postcode
9/T/4MENU

TOWN & COUNTRY
INVESTMENTS

- THE EIGHTIES: WINNERS AND LOSERS 18
- COMMENT: KENNETH FLEET COLUMN 19
- BARLOW CLOWES: COMPENSATION DEMAND 24
- CAR PLATES: PLAYING THE NUMBERS GAME 24

THE TIMES

MONEY

SECTION 2

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1989

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6040 (+0.0060)

W German mark
2.7637 (–0.0048)

Exchange index
86.6 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1851.7 (–19.7)

FT-SE 100
2344.7 (–22.3)

USM (Datastream)
151.33 (+0.25)

Market report, page 20

Maximum Rover aid

The European Commission says it approved the maximum subsidy without allowing for so-called "sweeteners" when it agreed the sale of Rover to British Aerospace last year.

"The subsidy we authorized was the maximum we thought was possible," said Miss Catherine Day, a senior member of Sir Leon Brittan's cabinet in the competition directorship.

"If we had thought another £20 million or £30 million was appropriate we would have approved it."

During the deal, the Commission refused the Government's request to give the company an £800 million subsidy and reduced it to £469 million. Miss Day said Sir Leon would give his personal decision on the disputed payments in the new year.

Waterford fall

Waterford Wedgwood shares fell 4p to 41p, an all-time low, after the crystal and china group gave a further warning on profits.

STOCK MARKETS

New York:	
Dow Jones	2743.39 (–10.24)*
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	38271.84 (+80.34)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	2896.57 (+19.82)
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tendency	182.5 (–1.1)
Sydney: AO	1619.1 (+3.5)
Frankfurt: DAX	1627.43 (+1.88)
Brussels:	
General	6398.88 (–21.49)
Paris: CAC	548.2 (–0.7)
Zurich: SKA Gen	614.9 (+0.5)
London:	
FT–A All-Share	n/a
FT–"500"	n/a
FT Gold Mines	308.4 (–3.2)
FT Fixed Interest	92.25 (–0.02)
FT Govt Secs	83.89 (+0.31)
Recent issues	Page 18
Closing prices	Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Caird Group	446p (+17p)
Davies & Newman	775p (+25p)
VG Instruments	537p (+68p)
Savoy Hotels 'A'	847½p (+33p)
Wyndham Eng	265p (+12p)
FALLS:	
Eurotunnel Units	520p (–48p)
Fisons	335p (–20p)
Glaxo	789½p (–17p)
Hawker Siddeley	673p (–14p)
Standard Chart	638p (–20p)
Rank Org	836p (–10p)
Wiggins	99p (–10p)
Britannia Security	101p (–17p)
Hoskyns Group	485p (–25p)
British Aerospace	566p (–10p)
Lucas	622½p (–8p)
SmithKline Beecham	598p (–13p)
Unilever	700p (–8p)
Brunning	97p (–23p)
J Smurfit	636p (–15p)
4pm prices	
Bargains	29761
SEAQ Volume	444.9m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month Interbank 15 3/16–15⅛%
3-month eligible bills: 14 17/32–14 7/16%
US: Prime Rate 10½%
Federal Funds 8⅛%*
3-month Treasury Bills 7.61–7.59%*
30-year bonds 103 2/16–103¼*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.6040	£: $1.6045*
£: DM2.7637	$: DM1.7225*
£: SwFr2.4846	$: SwFr1.5495*
£: FFr9.4540	$: FFr5.8900*
£: Yen231.05	$: Yen144.10*
£: Index:86.6	$: Index:67.9
ECU £0.730136	SDR £0.813565
£: ECU1.369607	£: SDR1.229158

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $410.35 pm-$412.75
close $412.00-412.50 (£256.50-257.00)
New York:
Comex $412.30-412.80*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ... $19.60 bbl ($19.60)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.085	1.965
Austria Sch	20.30	19.10
Belgium Fr	61.30	57.40
Canada $	1.944	1.834
Denmark Kr	11.20	10.60
Finland Mkk	6.90	6.50
France Fr	9.88	9.33
Germany Dm	2.885	2.715
Greece Dr	277	252
Hong Kong $	13.18	12.28
Ireland Pt	1.105	1.035
Italy Lira	2170	2040
Japan Yen	245	229
Netherlands Gld	3.25	3.07
Norway Kr	11.18	10.52
Portugal Esc	255	239
South Africa Rd	4.38	3.90
Spain Pta	187	175
Sweden Kr	10.50	9.90
Switzerland Fr	2.596	2.435
Turkey Lira	4170	3670
USA $	1.688	1.582
Yugoslavia Dnr	refer	108000

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 118.5 (November)

☆☆☆☆☆

General Motors pays £380m for 50% Saab stake

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Sweden's Saab-Scania is selling a half stake in its loss-making cars division to General Motors of America, after negotiations with Fiat, the Italian car manufacturer, were broken off.

GM is believed to have moved swiftly to close the deal, which is being seen as some compensation for its losing the race for Jaguar as the big car companies, especially Ford, have increasingly mopped up executive marques. Saab had been holding talks with Ford but these negotiations collapsed while Ford was making its successful takeover of Jaguar.

GM is paying SKr3.8 billion (£380 million) for its 50 per cent stake in Saab, which brought out the Saab 9000 range to mount a stronger attack on the executive car market dominated by BMW, Jaguar and Mercedes Benz.

GM and Saab are also each injecting SKr640 million into the new company, Saab Automobile, which will start operating next month. It will be entirely separate from other Saab-Scania interests such as Scania trucks production and aircraft manufacture and the chairmanship will be held by GM.

One of the big problems for Saab as a small volume car producer has been to fund new model development to meet the constant gearing-up of international competition. In addition, while it has continued to sell well in key European markets such as Britain, a collapse in the north American market has driven the Saab car division into mounting losses. The GM deal is expected to bring Saab Scania a capital gain next year of SKr1.7 billion. Saab Automobile will develop, manufacture and distribute Saab cars. But Saab, with plants in Sweden and Finland, will also manufacture some GM models.

Saab cars will continue to be sold through present dealer networks to underline their exclusive image. The British content in Saab cars varies between 5 and 10 per cent according to model and includes turbochargers, automatic gear boxes and some braking components and steel pressings.

GM expects the joint car venture to show a profit by 1991 at the latest, said Mr Robert Eaton, GM's European chief executive. This is regarded as a realistic goal by Mr Georg Karnsund, the Saab-Scania president and chief executive. He said there were plans for a top-of-the-line Saab in addition to the 900 and 9000 ranges. A six cylinder engine is also being developed.

GM, the world's largest car maker, said it believed an association with Saab would enable it to participate more intensively in the top end of the car market, as well as having additional capacity to assemble GM vehicles.

More co-operation moves between GM and Saab could come in aerospace projects.

Saab's missiles subsidiary is discussing setting up links on tactical missile projects with the missiles division of GM's Hughes aircraft operation, said the Swedish group.

Inflation rise to 7.7% fuels fears on wages

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

The annual rate of inflation rose to 7.7 per cent last month, more than reversing the decline seen in October, and making the Government's final quarter forecast of 7.5 per cent look over-optimistic.

With inflation still not responding to the prolonged counter-inflationary squeeze, interest rates look set to stay high well into next year.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, had drawn some of the financial markets' fire by predicting a fresh rise when he appeared before a parliamentary committee last week, and the pound and the stock market were little affected by yesterday's figure.

The 0.9 per cent rise in the retail price index last month, which took it to 118.5 (base 1987), was to a large extent due to increases in mortgage interest rates, though a sharp increase in seasonal food prices, and rises in leisure costs and clothing, also played an important role.

City economists fear that, though expected, the rise in inflation will fuel wage demands at the very time when pay moderation is called for urgently. This, in turn, will make the defeat of inflation — the Government's prime objective — much harder.

The underlying inflation rate, which excludes the distorting mortgage interest payments, was an annual 6.1 per cent, unchanged from October. This is still the highest for nearly eight years.

Mr Glenn Davies, senior economist at Credit Lyonnais Securities, the securities house, said that no comfort could be drawn from the underlying rate at this stage of the economic slowdown, as anticipated price increases are likely to continue to push the rate higher in coming months. He sees headline inflation probably peaking next month at about 7.9 per cent.

In October, the retail price index rose by 0.8 per cent for a 7.3 per cent annual rise, after 7.6 per cent the previous month.

Increases in the pipeline next month include a 4 per cent on the price of a loaf, some mortgage rate rises and higher costs for some food. Last month rises were partly offset by cheaper second-hand cars and petrol, as well as off-licence discounts on alcoholic drinks. The same categories should show further easing this month.

The RPI figure underlines the message Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, delivered at a news conference on Thursday — that full sterling participation in the European Monetary System is probably ruled out by Britain's present inflation and yawning trade gap.

His remarks followed a warning by Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, against "premature" entry into the European monetary system's exchange rate mechanism.

Herr Pöhl said: "The present inflation rate in the UK and the present situation regarding the current account means entry to the EMS is probably not possible."

He expressed satisfaction with the West German inflation rate, which is expected to run at about 3 per cent for the full year and 2 per cent next year.

US deficit at $10.2bn

By Our Economics Correspondent

The United States trade deficit widened in October, with imports posting their biggest gain for more than a year, providing fresh evidence that progress on reducing America's deficit has stalled.

After an initial drop in reaction to the trade figures, the dollar steadied to give a mixed performance against the main currencies. On Wall Street, prices went into retreat after staging a broadly-based rally.

The trade figures, and data indicating an underlying growth in wholesale prices, confirmed growing fears that the US economy might have to slow down further to reduce industry's appetite for imports, narrow the trade deficit, and squeeze out inflation.

The surprise jump in the seasonally-adjusted merchandise trade deficit was to $10.2 billion (£6.34 billion) from an upwards revised $8.5 billion shortfall in September, which had initially been set at $7.9 billion. The markets had been looking for an October deficit of about $8.6 billion.

Imports reversed the decline seen in September, reflecting boosted imports of raw materials and supplies for American industry.

Mr Neil Mackinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi International, described the trade figures as a "pretty poor performance" that could foster protectionist pressures.

In the past few months, exports have stagnated at between $30 billion and $31 billion. The latest three-month average has also provided a pattern of rising deficits since August.

Reducing the main trade imbalances, including the US deficit, has been a central policy goal of co-operation between the leasing industrial nations. A reversal could threaten the current "Uruguay Round" of talks aimed at freer world trade.

The US deficit fell by 22 per cent to $118.5 billion last year and is expected to come down to $109.4 billion this year. The deficit with Japan has risen to $4.9 billion from $4.1 billion in September.

In October, the US exports of manufactured goods rose to $24.4 billion from $23.4 billion. Imports advanced to $35.1 billion from $31 billion.

Other data showed an 0.1 per cent fall in the producer price index — the first decline since August. But producer prices showed an 0.2 per cent rise with the more volatile energy and food components are stripped out. Industrial output rose 0.1 per cent.

MMC investigates Tiphook

By Our Industrial Editor

Tiphook, the aggressive sea freighting company headed by Mr Robert Montague, is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission because of its proposed acquisition from Mercantile Credit of Trailerent, which operates in the road trailer rental market.

If the merger went ahead, Tiphook's road trailer rental interests added to those of Trailerent would account for about a third of the trailer rental market. In the refrigerated trailer rental sector, the two companies are thought likely to account for almost two thirds of the market.

Road trailers are the load-carrying half of articulated trucks, attached to the front drive units. Trailer rental is a fast-growing business in Britain.

One big operator has moved from a trailer rental turnover of £3 million in 1985 to £50 million this year. The trailer rental sector has seen several mergers recently, the market leader being TIP Europe after its acquisition of CSL.

Tiphook, which acquired Rentco, is the second largest operator followed by Trailerent.

Another likely factor behind the referral is that because trailer rental is a much less developed sector on the Continent, little competition seems likely to be injected from there in the near future.

Headlam reverses to move ahead

MIKE POWELL

Going on the town: John Chaplin (left) chairman of Headlam and Peter Grant Cadogan's managing director yesterday

Headlam, the safety and sports footwear group, is moving ahead and trebling its size with a reverse takeover of Cadogan Oakley, the maker of Christy mens' hats, Michelsons shirts and ties, Peter Guild upholstered furniture and Multifabs protective clothing, writes Melinda Wittstock.

Cadogan, 85 per cent-owned by Lord Chelsea's private Cadogan Estates property company, wants Headlam's quote to fund expansion.

The deal, via the issue of up to 23 million Headlam shares in two tranches based on the relative pre-tax profits of both companies this year and next, does not as yet have a price tag.

Though the maximum consideration would be £17.5 million based on the current price of Headlam's shares, suspended yesterday at 76p, both companies expect Headlam to issue just 16 million shares, making a total consideration of £12.2 million.

Headlam, which reported pre-tax profits of £929,000 on a turnover of £22.8 million for the 11 months to end-December, 1988, operates three separate manufacturing divisions.

Phipps-Faire supplies materials for the shoe trade, R Coggins & Sons manufactures and distributes industrial footwear, and Faire Brothers supplies the Ministry of Defence with protective clothing fabric.

Cadogan Oakley operates four companies. Christy & Co, the maker of top hats, bowlers, riding headgear and police helmets. Michelsons, makes mens shirts and ties, Peter Guild, its furniture maker, supplies Harrods and John Lewis, while Multifabs, also supplies the Ministry of Defence with protective clothing.

Hestair agrees BET bid

By Melinda Wittstock

BET, the international support services company, emerged late yesterday as a white knight in the battle for Hestair, the Atlas personnel services and consumer products group, with a £192 million agreed bid.

Hestair, fighting a £167 million bid from its Swiss counterpart, Adia, said this month it was in talks with a potential rival bidder, though BET approached it days ago.

The BET cash offer, at 325p per share, represents a premium of 15 per cent over Adia's 282p offer and a 46 per cent premium over the mid-market price of 222p.

Hestair shareholders will be entitled to a share alternative of 13 ordinary BET shares for every 11 in Hestair for all or part of their cash entitlement. They are also entitled to hold onto the Hestair interim dividend of 3.6p, payable early on in January.

Adia, run by Swiss financier Mr Werner Rey has been singled out as a likely bidder for the personnel agency division of Brompton Holdings, the former Oil Inspection Services.

Brompton, the USM-listed company in which Adia already holds a 35 per cent stake, is planning to sell its manpower and telecommunications businesses in order to focus on its core industrial equipment testing operations.

Lowndes unveils £70m rescue deal

By George Sivell

Lowndes Queensway, the troubled furniture distributor headed by Mr James Gulliver, has revealed that its bankers and other unnamed investors will put up £70 million to rescue the company.

The shares were suspended at 8½p last night ahead of the long-awaited financial reconstruction package, conditions of which have yet to be finalized.

The company wants its shares suspended during the final stages of the negotiations. Details are due to be sent out to shareholders in January.

Last month, the company indicated that a further rescue package was in the offing after speculation depressed the shares 11p to 5½p in one day. In August, shareholders were asked to put up £18 million in a cash call at 20p a share.

At last night's suspension price the group is worth little more than £20 million and has debts of about £160 million.

THE TIMES
GUIDE TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
JUNE 1989

Edited by Alan Wood

This new edition of THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT contains detailed statistics of the third direct elections to the European Parliament held in June in each of the twelve member states. Also included are biographies and photographs of MEPs and commentaries on the member state election campaigns.

£25

Available through bookshops or in case of difficulty from
TIMES BOOKS
16 Golden Square, London W1

Institutions oppose terms of restructuring

Land under pressure over meeting

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Opposition from British Land's institutional shareholders is putting pressure on the property group to postpone the extraordinary meeting, scheduled for Thursday, called to approve its controversial restructuring. Leading brokers claim to have seen a surge of opposition in the past 36 hours, partly because some fund managers have only just received and studied the documents.

Leading shareholders of up to 15 per cent of British Land, including Postel Investment Management and Legal & General, are understood to have decided to vote against the scheme unless the meeting is postponed and details changed. Robert Fleming Investment Management, which controls 7 per cent, plans to decide on Monday.

There is near universal approval of the concept of the scheme, under which a portfolio of properties would be sold to a demerged New British Land and the remaining large property investments of British Land would be sold and the proceeds distributed. But there are objections to the terms drawn up by SG Warburg, BL's merchant bank.

There was criticism that too much of the benefit would go through incentive schemes to British Land management and their families. They back an investment group that could have as much as 27.6 per cent of NBL, if performance targets are met, through subscribing initial capital to NBL and having the benefit of options over more than 20 per cent.

Mr John Stubbs of Postel said: "As we understand it, the deal would represent a breaching of the spirit of the guidelines on pre-emption rights and options."

Limits on bringing in shareholders on advantageous terms and on the proportions of shares that can be issued to management via options would not apply directly to BL, since the incentive package is in NBL shares, but institutional investor protection committees have started discussions on the proposals.

Winners and losers of the 80s

Shares soared through the 80s, growing at 23.5 per cent a year. But there were thrills and spills for the captains of industry. John Bell and Martin Waller report.

Take a bow, Mr Asil Nadir, the man who turned Polly Peck from a frayed-at-the-edges rag trade company into the stock market success of the decade. Anyone fortunate enough to have backed the 47-year-old chain smoking Turkish Cypriot with £1,000 10 years ago would now be the proud owner of a £1.2 million nest egg.

Research from County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, shows that Polly Peck's share price soared a mind-boggling 120,545 per cent from the end of the 1970s to the end of last month. But Mr Nadir's path to success has not been smooth. There was a huge speculative bubble in Polly Peck shares during 1983 which eventually took them from a low of 9p three years earlier to the equivalent of £35. When the bubble burst because progress proved slower than anticipated, Polly lost more than a quarter of its stock market value in a mere 20 minutes.

There was a further hefty downgrading when Mr Nadir allowed his hopes to be translated into hard City forecasts which were missed by a mile. But he persisted. His ideas for shifting Polly Peck from its downbeat East End operations on to a world stage as a heavyweight international trader seemed to a disbelieving City too far fetched.

Mr Nadir said his fruit packing and distribution activities would grow beyond their small beginnings in Cyprus and Turkey and was met with scepticism. The same fate greeted plans to build a consumer electronics operation in Turkey. Little by little most of the critics have fallen by the wayside. Mr Nadir clinched two deals this year that underlined his entry to the big league. He paid $875 million for the fresh fruit business of Del Monte, and became the first European to buy control of a listed Japanese business with a majority stake in Sansui, the audio equipment company.

County's research shows fruit has been a winning business during the 1980s. Mr Tony Millar's **Albert Fisher** group was easily the next best performer among the 700 or so leading shares which make up the FTA All-share index. They climbed no less than 8,218 per cent. Fisher's stock-in-trade was the well-chosen acquisition.

Other acquisitive companies to repay their shareholders well were **Williams Holdings**, the conglomerate built by Mr Nigel Rudd and Mr Brian McGowan (up 4,065 per cent), **Hazlewood Foods** (4,005 per cent), **Hanson** (2,187 per cent) and **BTR** whose shares gained 1,300 per cent.

Despite the strictures of Sir James Goldsmith, BAT shows up in the best performers among the elite who make up the FT-SE 100 index. A special honour is probably due to housebuilder **Wilson Connolly** which is a shining example to a lackluster industry, turning in solid growth through thick and thin. Its shares grew 2,698 per cent.

Among the stars of the 1970s — Britain's top 100 companies at the turn of the decade — are supermarketeers **Sainsbury** and **Tesco**, which have both blazed trails for the rest of the retail trade. Top of the 1970s stars was **Glaxo**, whose shares soared 2,677 per cent. The falling stars of the 1980s make predictably depressing reading. For some, the agony is not yet over. Several of those stars of the 1970s whose fortunes waned over the next decade had close connections with the British motor industry, and so shared its sad decline. Both **GKN** and **Lucas Industries** have since restructured to such an extent that they can no longer be considered pure motor stocks.

Similar abrupt restructurings have taken place at **Harrisons & Crosfield**, still frantically trying to shake off its erstwhile tag as a plantations group with expansion into areas such as specialist chemicals and builders' merchanting, and at **Granada**. The latter is screwing up its courage to enter the great TV franchise free-for-all which will be such a feature of the first few years of the next decade, and has only recently announced it plans to bid for a second franchise to add to its existing one, maker of the perennial soap opera *Coronation Street*. But observers say the hunter is more likely to become the hunted, once Independent Broadcasting Authority rules on takeover bids are relaxed. Pity poor **Standard Chartered**, formerly chaired by Lord Barber, still seen as the weakest of the big banks.

County's lists, surprisingly, feature just the one retailer. Current disaster areas such as **Next** and **Storehouse** came from such a low base at the start of the decade that their more recent falls from grace have done little more than redress the balance. But **Asda** represents a retail disaster of epic proportions, featuring that favourite staple of pulp fiction, the Marriage That Was Not Made In Heaven. The subsequent divorce led to the management buy-out of the DIY retailer **MFI**. That also set a notable trend when it came to grief on the rocks of late 1980s high interest rates, to be followed by two more retail basket-cases, **Lowndes Queensway** and **Magnet**.

Among the smaller companies, names such as **Eagle Trust** and **Charterhall** are still at the nadir. **GPG** — the unattractive initials hide the bits of the old Guinness Peat Group the New Zealanders did not want — is still trying to resolve its future, aided by Mr Robert Maxwell, whose performance elsewhere has surely owned him the title of Most Caring Shareholder of the Decade.

Charterhall features another 1980s figure, the Australian Who Fell From Grace. Observers Down Under say Mr Russell Goward may soon need all his life-saving skills acquired as a Bondi Beach lifeguard for his Westmex vehicle.

The seemingly interminable Eagle Trust saga has been one of the features of the past year — only this week the group was forced to announce a £10 million write-off on a deal carried out by the former chairman, Mr Malcolm Stockdale.

A highlight of the 1990s will be the legal resolution of a certain drinks takeover which hogged the headlines in the late 1980s. Involved was another of our laggards, the merchant bank Henry Ansbacher.

Up and downs of the last decade

Nadir's heights at Polly Peck

Top 10	%	Bottom 10	%
Polly Peck	120,545	NSM	-63
Albert Fisher	8,218	GPG	-65
Mountleigh	4,109	Eagle Trust	-82
Williams Hldgs	4,065	Chloride Group	-47
Hazlewood Foods	4,005	Charterhall	-39
Priest Marians	3,861	Kalon Group	-37
Southend Prop	3,325	Henry Ansbacher	-37
Securicor Group	3,117	Rockware Group	-33
Wilson Connolly	2,698	London Utd Invs	-28
Glaxo	2,677	London Amer Vent	-17

Source: County NatWest Wood Mackenzie. Performance from end-December 1979 to end-November 1989. Based on FTA All-share companies.

There are a few lessons for the 1990s in the lists of best and worst performers over the past decade. The top two, Polly Peck and Albert Fisher, have waxed fat on the trend to healthy eating.

Securicor owes much of its dynamic growth to the continuing boom in cellular phones.

Williams and Hazlewood show that there is money in backing the takeover specialists that politicians love to hate.

What happened to the 70s stars

Goward: needing his skills

Lord Sainsbury: trail-blazer

Top 10	%	Bottom 10	%
Glaxo	2,677	GKN	69
Sainsbury	1,361	De La Rue	80
BTR	1,300	Harrison & C'field	92
BAT Inds	1,260	Standard Chart	100
Sun Alliance	878	Midland Bank	107
Reed Intl	867	Granada	129
BOC	791	Dowty	137
Tesco	749	Hepworth	172
Unilever	662	BP	176
Legal & General	651	Lucas Inds	179

Source: County NatWest Wood Mackenzie. Performance from end-December 1979 to end-November 1989. Based on top 100 companies at end-1979.

Many 1970s stars sailed through the 1980s and look set to continue their winning ways.

Glaxo's Zantac, the world's best selling drug, is still conquering new fields and helping to finance a new generation of products. Sainsbury and Tesco continue to change the shopping habits of the nation.

BTR and Unilever also show no signs of flagging. Some of the losers like GKN are set for strong recovery in the 1990s.

Lord Barber: Standard weak

The rise and rise of Britain's equity market

The 1980s started with the worst recession since the 1930s, but they became a brilliant decade for investors.

In an extensive analysis, due to be published next week, the research team at County NatWest Wood Mackenzie found that the British equity market rose every year in the 1980s.

The cumulative rise — to end November — has been 395.5 per cent. Adding in gross income, the cumulative total return has been 702 per cent, or 23.5 per cent per annum. In fact, the last time that the market failed to produce a positive total return was 1974.

Only in two years during the decade, 1982 and 1987, has the gilt market provided a better return than the equity market.

Cash was a better investment in 1981 and 1987.

Despite the excellent performance of British equities, overseas equities have provided better returns during six of the last 10 years, mainly reflecting the substantial decline of sterling against other leading currencies during the decade.

● **Sector Performance:**

Best sector performances during the decade, again in total return terms, have been health and household (1,742 per cent), publishing and printing (1,445 per cent), other industrial materials (1,111 per cent), life insurance (1,364 per cent) and food retailing (951 per cent).

The laggards have been other financials (348 per cent), oil (524 per cent), insurance brokers (618 per cent) and property (408 per cent).

This divergence in performance, together with the introduction of privatizations, has resulted in a fairly dramatic shift in sector and stock weightings (by market capitalization) within the market. In particular, the oil sector has fallen from 15 per cent at the start of the decade to 11 per cent now. The stores sector has fallen from 7 per cent of the market to its present 4.5 per cent.

Moving in the opposite direction has been the health and household sector, which shows a rise in weights from 2.5 per cent to more than 7 per cent.

BP and Shell have retained their positions over the decade at the top of the capitalization rankings, although British Telecom, introduced in late 1984, now splits the two stocks.

GEC has suffered a steep decline in importance. At the peak of interest in technology stocks in 1982, GEC was the largest stock in the market, its capitalization representing 5 per cent of the market. It currently stands in 13th position in the rankings, and represents just 1.3 per cent of the total.

● **Corporate Earnings and Dividends:**

Corporate earnings have grown at an average annual rate of 11 per cent per annum during the 1980s. This falls to 9 per cent if the oil sector is included. Dividends have grown at a higher rate, 12.5 per cent per annum, reflecting the end of dividend controls at the start of the Conservatives' first term in power.

Privatizations:

Excluding the Government's BP sales during the decade, privatizations have increased the capitalization base of the market by approximately 10 per cent. Although most privatization stocks have performed well in absolute terms, not all have kept up with the rest of the stock market.

British Aerospace, Amersham, Rolls-Royce and British Steel in particular have all underperformed the market since their introduction.

The net effect is that privatizations cannot be viewed as having pushed up the market. In other words, an investor holding only privatization stocks would have done just as well investing in the existing companies in the market.

More of what you're looking for.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
CLASSIFIED

To place your advertisement telephone 01-481 4000.

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● *The Times* Stockwatch service gives our readers instant access to the prices of more than 10,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds. Information can be found on these telephone numbers:

● Stock market comment: The general situation in the stock market can be found by ringing 0898 121220. Items of company news are available on 0898 121221 and prices of shares that are actively trading in the market may be found on 0898 121225.

● The telephone calls will be charged at the rate of 5p for every eight seconds during peak time and at the rate of 5p for every 12 seconds during off-peak hours.

● The prices charged are inclusive of value-added tax.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Air London (75p)	138
Anglo Park	95 –1
Antce Distribution	18 –½
Berks Hldgs (142p)	146 +1
Berplats Mines	£156
Biocure (42p)	43
Courtyard Lets (27p)	21
East Surrey Water	£14½
Euro Disneyland	943 +3
Euro Project (50p)	51 +1
Fired Earth (130p)	130
First Philip (50p)	46
Groevnr Dev (108p)	103 –2
Hartley Baird	61 +1
Image Store (38p)	41
JF Philippines	850
Lon March Sec Dlr	42 +1
Malaysian Emerg	685 –15
Micklegate Gp (75p)	73
Millicom Inc	£14⅝ –⅛
Pendragon	78 –1
Prospect (10p)	11½
Ramsden (Harry) (100p)	112 +1
Regal Hotels	156
Sage Gp New (130p)	148
Sempemova (40p)	43
Slam Smlr Comp	£10½
Storm Group (38p)	36
Surrey Gp	14½
United Drug	184

See main listing for Water shares

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ass Energy N/P	3
Assoc Farmers N/P	-
Crossroads N/P	3
Jacobd (W&R) N/P	20
Jeyes N/P	41
Surrey N/P	3½
Wilkes (J) N/P	7 +1

(Issue price in brackets)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings December 4 | Last Dealings December 15 | Last Declaration March 8 | For Settlement March 19

Call options were taken out on: 15/12/89 Oliver Resources, Grocblal, Tusker Resources, Eurotunnel Units, Waterford Wedgewood.
Puts: British Steel.

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
ADT	398	CU	592	L&G	841	Scot & N	621
Abbey Nat	5,585	Cookson	1,185	Lloyds	1,771	Sears	6,911
Allid-Lyons	1,978	Courtaulds	596	Lloyds Abb	480	Sedgwick	1,382
Amstrad	1,770	Dalgety	154	Lonrho	459	Shell	3,379
ASDA	14,850	Dixons	890	Lucas	254	Siebe	656
AB Foods	229	ECC	98	M&S	1,485	Slough	730
Argyll	3,675	Enterprise	75	Maxwell Cm	175	Smith & N	3,297
BAA	1,375	Ferranti	6,052	MB Group	448	SK Beech	1,997
BET	1,100	Fisons	5,156	MEPC	1,067	Smith WH	6
BTR	1,065	FKI	2,451	Midland	2,196	Smiths Ind	303
BAT	467	Gen Acc	409	Nat West	3,576	STC	1,656
Barclays	1,718	GEC	3,803	Next	4,237	Stan Chart	2,606
Bass	476	Glaxo	1,990	Nth Food	984	Storehse	3,335
Beazer	931	Globe Inv	60	P&O	753	Sun Allce	473
Bertstd Ind	482	Glynwed	1,146	Pearl	2	T & N	731
BICC	745	Granada	215	Pearson	518	TI Group	215
Blue Arrow	2,590	Grand Met	1,291	Pilkington	2,738	Tarmac	878
Blue Circle	1,211	GUS 'A'	63	Polly Peck	2,894	Tate & Lyle	240
BOC	727	GRE	1,179	Prudential	3,684	Taylor Wood	40
Boots	473	GKN	890	Racal	2,740	TSB	6,112
BPB	229	Guinness	1,234	Racal Tele	178	Tesco	2,090
Br Aero	1,434	Hamm'A'	1 Han-	Rk Hovis	410	Thorn EMI	637
Br Airways	2,495	ison	4,472	Rank	783	Trafalgar	409
Br Comm	4,472	H & C	449	RSC	943	TRF	457
Br Gas	5,748	Hawker	943	Redland	196	Ultramar	1,679
Br Land	1,183	Hillsdown	538	Reed	975	Unigate	542
Br Petrol	6,272	IMI	547	Reuters	379	Unilever	1,787
Br Steel	6,636	ICI	893	RMC Gp	23	United Bis	2,565
Br Telecm	5,730	Inchcape	150	RTZ	1,326	Utd News	125
Bunzl	543	Jaguar	59	R-Royce	1,349	Wellcome	485
Burmah	612	Kingfisher	265	Rothmn 'B'	1,027	Whitbrd	1,147
Burton	2,066	Lasmo	520	Royal Bank	2,085	Williams	2,273
C&W	1,678	Ladbroke	954	Royal Ing	982	Willis Feb	315
Cadbury	1,306	Land Sec	535	Saatchi	1,389	Wrapey G	1,291
Coats	409	Laporte	156	Sainsbury	2,156		

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Allid Lyon (*489)	420	75	95	100	1	4	16
	460	40	62	70	4	12	22
	500	16	37	45	21	33	38
ASDA (*104)	110	6	11	15	4	12	16
	120	6	7	11	18	20	20
	130	2	5	8	26	27	27
Bass (*1054)	1000	77	120	145	10	20	32
	1050	42	87	110	30	43	52
	1100	18	55	–	60	67	–
Boots (*269)	280	19	32	37	8	8	13
	280	6	20	25	15	17	22
	300	3	12	–	32	32	–
Brit Air (*220)	180	44	51	54	1	3	4
	200	24	33	36	2	5	8
	220	7½	19	23	6	12	16
Brit Gas (*97)	80	23	29	30	2½	5	6
	90	14	21	24	6	9	12
	100	9	16	20	11	15	19
BP (*330)	280	53	58	61	1	3½	5
	300	32	42	45	1½	7	11
	330	8½	21	26	8	14	20
Brit Steel (*133)	120	15½	20	22	1½	2	4
	135	4	6½	–	6	7½	–
	145	1½	5	–	13	13½	–
C & W (*525)	460	73	97	107	2½	9	13
	500	43	64	80	11	20	25
	550	13	40	53	35	41	49
Coats Gold (*1480)	1450	28	–	–	5	–	–
	1500	4	–	–	45	–	–
Com Union (*493)	420	76	87	96	3	6	8
	460	42	53	66	8	16	18
	500	14	28	42	18	29	33
Courtauld (*378)	330	55	67	73	2	4	9
	360	26	44	52	8	14	16
	390	11	27	30	20	22	32
GKN (*422)	350	68	78	85	1½	7	10
	390	42	51	64	4	14	19
	420	20	38	50	11	28	29
Grand Met (*611)	500	115	128	140	1	4½	8
	550	68	80	98	4	14	19
	600	30	40	62	16	30	35
ICI (*1121)	1050	92	113	137	6	32	35
	1100	53	79	105	22	47	57
	1150	28	52	80	47	75	83
Jaguar (*849)	800	55	55	55	1	1	1
	850	1	1	3	6	8	8
	900	½	¾	½	52	52	52
Kingfisher (*292)	280	21	36	38	6	8	16
	300	18	25	29	18	20	25
	330	2½	14	17	40	40	44
Ladbroke (*319)	275	49	–	–	1¼	–	–
	300	26	40	46	4½	18	14
	325	9½	–	–	15	–	–
Land Sec (*523)	460	73	92	97	1½	6	7
	500	36	56	65	7	12	16
	550	9	30	37	30	35	40
M & S (*200)	180	24	31	34	3	3½	5½
	200	6	17	21	6½	8	16
	220	2	8	–	22	23	–
STC (*249)	260	9	15	24	22	27	30
	280	4	11	17	40	42	45
	300	2	6	11	56	60	62
Sainsbury (*254)	240	13	23	34	5	4	7
	260	7	16	21	13	14	16
	280	2½	8	12	32	32	33
Shell (*475)	420	65	75	86	1	6	11
	460	32	42	53	6	16	22
	500	16	26	30	28	37	43
Smith Beech (*598)	541	69	–	–	3	–	–
	600	23	46	63	17	23	27
	650	8	23	37	52	52	55
Storehse (*111)	100	13	16	23	3	6	8
	110	6	16	17	7	10	13
	120	6½	9	12	14	16	16
Trafalgar (*360)	317	54	–	–	2	–	–
	347	30	–	–	5	–	–
	377	12	–	–	22	–	–
Ultramar (*357)	300	60	70	80	1½	6	7
	330	33	43	58	5	16	15
	360	14	25	40	17	26	28
Unilever (*700)	650	63½	84½	93½	–	4	13
	700	27	51½	71	16½	38½	35½
	750	7½	28½	47½	63½	69½	63½
Utd Biec (*359)	330	36	48	57	3	8	9
	360	12	25	37	9	16	20
	390	5	12	22	33	36	38

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BAA (*365)	330	68	80	84	1½	4½	7
	360	40	55	61	6	9½	13
	390	20	30	42	17	21	26
BAT Ind (*820)	750	102	127	165	9	21	27
	800	62	92	117	24	37	45
	850	35	64	93	50	60	70
BTR (*459)	420	53	65	79	4	18	13
	460	25	37	53	15	23	27
	500	11	21	32	42	47	50
Brit Aero (*568)	500	87	96	115	7	19	24
	550	51	65	87	20	35	40
	600	24	42	68	47	62	64
Brit Tele (*258)	240	56	68	78	1	1	2
	260	36	46	54	1½	3	5
	280	20	29	36	5	8	9
Cadbury (*347)	330	32	42	54	7	14	16
	360	16	27	38	21	28	30
	390	7	16	–	47	46	–
Guinness (*653)	550	113	125	142	2	5	6
	600	65	85	103	7	18	20
	650	38	52	70	23	35	40
GEC (*223)	200	26	36	44	2½	4½	8
	220	12	21	27	6½	11	13
	240	4½	12	18	20	26	34
Hanson (*218)	200	24½	33	37½	2½	4	6
	220	10½	20	28	8½	10½	13
	240	3½	10½	15½	23	24	24½

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
LASMO (*578)	460	128	142	155	1	4	7
	500	90	107	125	3½	11	15
	550	52	72	90	15	27	30
P & O (*587)	550	51½	66½	80½	8½	20	23½
	600	21½	37½	53½	30½	42	47
	650	7½	19½	–	72	73	–
Pilkington (*280)	200	37	45	–	2	4	–
	220	20	31	34	6	10	14
	240	9	20	23	16	19	25
Pleasey (*288)	240	–	–	–	¼	–	–
	260	11	–	–	½	–	–
	280	½	½	–	–	–	–
Prudential (*219)	180	45	49	52	1½	3	3½
	200	26	30	36	3	6	9
	220	13	17	23	8	13	14
Racal (*239)	210	36	47	–	3½	7	–
	230	26	33	–	6	14	–
	250	11	–	–	16	–	–
RTZ (*568)	493	67	–	–	6	–	–
	542	47	–	–	13	–	–
	606	17	27	45	44	54	66
Scott & Newc (*349)	330	33	48	65	13	17	24
	360	17	30	40	27	33	40
	390	9	20	–	50	50	–
Tesco (*188)	160	33½	37½	42½	1	2½	3½
	180	17	22½	26½	4½	7½	8½
	200	6½	12½	17½	15½	17½	18½

	Series	Jan	Mar	Jun	Jan	Mar	Jun
Abbey Nat (*172)	140	36	39	41	1	2	3
	160	16	21	24	3	6	8
	180	3	6	12	16	13	16

	Series	Jan	Mar	May	Jan	Mar	May
Fenitell (*35)	35	5½	6½	11½	4½	6	7
	40	4	6	8½	7½	9	10½
	45	1½	4	6½	11	11½	13
Polly Peck (*400)	360	49	62½	74	4	9½	13
	390	26½	42½	54½	12½	20½	23½
	420	12½	27½	37½	29	35½	38½

	Series	Dec	Feb	Apr	Dec	Feb	Apr
Reuters (*1034)	950	88	–	–	1	–	–
	1000	37½	–	–	3½	–	–
	1050	8	–	–	28½	–	–

	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Amstrad (*44)	35	10	14	17	1	3	5
	40	6	16	13	1½	4	7
	45	2½	7½	10	4	6	9
Barclays (*568)	460	100	115	118	1	4	8
	500	68	78	86	1	11	15
	550	12	37	51	5	26	28
Blue Circ (*226)	200	30	38	40	1	3	6
	220	11	24	28	1½	6	17
	250	1	18	–	24	27	–
Bell Gas (*224)	180	45	47	58	½	1	2
	200	25	29	38	½	4	6
	220	5	14	24	2	9	11
Dixons (*132)	120	13	20	25	1½	8	7
	130	5	14	19	6½	9	12
	140	2	8	14	18	14	16
Guinness (*790)	750	45	80	104	2	16	25
	775	22	68	87	5	25	34
	800	10	48	72	20	37	45
	850	2	27	–	62	87	–
Hanson (*624)	600	80	113	127	1	12	20
	650	33	72	87	3	27	40
	700	3	45	33	30	50	62
	750	1	27	42	80	80	83
Hillsdown (*269)	220	13	27	33	2	6	12
	250	2	15	21	13	18	21
	300	1	8	13	38	34	34
Lonrho (*224)	257	28	–	–	1	–	–
	283	13	–	–	2	–	–
	309	3	–	–	16	–	–
Midland (*370)	360	73	78	80	1	4	5
	320	44	–	–	1	–	–
	390	23	28	37	4	22	25
R-Royce (*179)	150	13½	21½	24	¾	4½	7½
	180	1½	6	13½	9	12	17
	200	¾	4½	7	20	28	31
Sears (*102)	160	4½	10½	14	1½	4½	7
	110	½	6	9	8	8	12
	120	½	6½	6½	18	18	18
TSB (*201)	280	22	36	40	1	7	14
	300	5	22	29	4	15	19
	320	1	9½	16	31	34	37
Thorn EMI (*773)	700	74	106	135	1	16	15
	750	25	67	100	3½	34	38
	800	2	38	70	32	47	55
TSB (*124)	110	15	18	26	1	3	2½
	120	5	10	15	1½	5	6½
	130	1	6	8	7	10	11
Vaal Reefs (*$172)	90	22	26	27	1	3½	7
	100	13	16	20	2	8	10
	110	3	11	14	4	13	14
Wellcome (*758)	650	105	130	160	1	8	15
	700	57	90	120	2	20	29
	750	15	62	80	15	40	47

FT-SE INDEX (*2349)	2350	2300	2250	2400	2450	2500
Calls						
Dec	111	62	28	9	2½	1
Jan	143	103	77	47	28	16
Feb	190	135	103	82	52	36
Mar	202	165	128	105	77	62
Jun	–	218	–	157	–	105
Puts						
Dec	5½	17	39	82	110	160
Jan	27	36	57	87	110	163
Feb	35	50	69	98	118	160
Mar	47	58	80	103	128	160
Jun	–	80	–	110	–	160

December 15, 1989 Total: 23891 Calls 14459 Puts 9142 FT-SE: Calls 3199 Puts 4746
*Underlying security price.

Property slump sends McCarthy down to £7m

By Martin Waller

McCarthy & Stone, the builder of sheltered housing, has revealed a pre-tax profits collapse from £34.1 million to £7.1 million in the year to end-August after losses of £4.4 million in the second half.

The final dividend is to be cut from 4p to 2.64p taking the total for the year down from 5.14p to 3.95p.

The figures come a day after McCarthy's rival, Anglia Secured Homes, announced losses after exceptional items of £4.5 million for the year. McCarthy's share price slipped 4p to 107p, against a high this year of 407p, even though it had warned of falling sales and mounting debts this month.

Interest charges rose by £6.4 million to £14.4 million during the year, and retained profits after the dividend payment were £1.1 million, against £19.9 million.

Miss Krystyna Brzeskwinski, building analyst at Hoare Govett, is expecting the group to lose another £5 million during the current year, although she stresses this is a highly provisional figure.

Mr John McCarthy, the chairman, who holds a 30 per cent stake, made comparisons with the last property market crash. "The situation is very little different from 1974. If our customers can't sell their homes, even if they don't need a mortgage, then they have a problem — or to be specific, we have a problem."

He revealed the company had bought £40 million worth of land in the year to end-January 1989, when analysts reckon land prices were at their peak. Land purchases have now been halted.

The company has 1,992 units ready for sale and another 986 under construction. But in the first quarter of this year only 193 sheltered apartments had been sold, down from 446 in the comparable period a year previously.

Borrowings had rocketed over the year to £118.6 million, or 110 per cent of shareholders' funds, from 60 per cent, although disposals since the financial year-end had trimmed gearing to about 100 per cent.

McCarthy is not making any write-offs against current developments and against its land bank, a feature of the Anglia figures. Mr McCarthy said the realizable value of land and stock was "well in excess" of the cost value of £221 million at which they were held on the books, although he refused to reveal that actual value.

Observers, however, believe some sort of write-off is inevitable if current trading continues as at present.

The company is tackling the problem by a massive redundancy programme — the number of employees in the core business is being trimmed by two-thirds to fewer than 600 — and by offering special incentives to customers.

Why shareholders should lead fight against short-termism

KENNETH FLEET

Few people know more about relationships between shareholders and companies than Sir Brian Corby. An actuary by training, he ascends in May from chief executive to the chairmanship of the Prudential Corporation.

He knows at first hand the natural tensions between investing institutions and managements of companies whose shares they hold. With the Pru's 5 per cent stake he may play a god-like role in putting pressure on an ailing company to change its ways; but he may not lose sight of mortal motes in the Pru's own visioo (plunging expensively into estate agency perhaps), which might incur his shareholders' wrath.

As the next president of the Confederation of British Industry, he is familiar with industrialists' anger over the short-term performance criteria of investment fund managers. And, as a director of the Bank of England, he understands the Bank's desire to see relationships between owners and senior managers improved.

At the Robson Rhodes & WR Royle annual dinner, he advocated a "more robust," two-way dialogue between companies and shareholders to overcome concerns over company management. Pressures on management to perform have increased and, if all else fails, the hostile takeover exists to ensure better management. At the very least it guarantees an immediate improvement in communications between companies and shareholders. Managements have responded to the threat of a bid by taking a short-term view of corporate performance and concentrating probably to excess on their share price. This may save skins but could damage the company's health.

Shareholders, Sir Brian maintains, have to be readier "to stand up and be counted." His preference as an institutional shareholder is still doing good by stealth and behaving robustly in private. With one notable concession: "annual general meetings can be pretty tame affairs . . . Here I believe the institutions could play a more positive role. Is it sufficient to say that they have the information they need through, say, their own research departments? Do they have a wider responsibility — to the company, to the shareholders as a whole and to the system?"

They do and they could begin to exercise it at annual meetings by asking the right questions to elicit information for all shareholders. There is a paradox here. Many companies go to considerable pains preparing answers to questions shareholders might ask, but never do. Chairmen are aware of their responsibility to elucidate, clarify and shed light but rarely are they called on to discharge it. To be regularly called to account in open forum would have a salutary effect on directors whose performance, rightly, would add to or subtract from the market's perception of them and their company.

What has now come to be called rather grandly "corporate governance" is a hot topic. The Bank of England has just released a discussion paper, written by one of the Governor's advisers, Jonathan Charkham, focusing on the role of shareholders in promoting better management in industry.

In essence, it is a call to institutional shareholders to be "positive." If they see a good company in decline "they should use their influence and, in the last resort, use their powers under the Companies Act in relation to the composition of the board to cause remedial action to be taken, rather than simply wash their hands of the whole matter by selling their shares and walking away (the Wall Street Walk)."

The call is not a new one. But it has a greater urgency than before, for two reasons: first, British manufacturing industry, for the most part, appears to have neither the competitive edge nor the right structure to take on the Americans, Germans and Japanese; secondly, the City seems to manufacturing industry to have only one thought in its collective head — to make a fast buck from its stakes by selling out to the first predator prepared to pay above the market price.

There has been some progress toward "long-termism" among leading institutions but most still insist that their duty is to buy and sell shares for the maximum benefit of the policyholders, pensioners and unit holders they represent. They are gamblers in a special casino, not management consultants. The trick is to persuade them that they would serve their clients better by taking a positive view of their role as shareholders and not simply to seek stardom through the investment performance charts which are as ephemeral as the Top Twenty.

This is beginning to happen, not through intellectual argument or appeals to the national interest but because the cost of constantly churning portfolios is high and the performance of the fund managers who do the churning flatters them not. Mr Charkham refers to US evidence that only between a quarter and a third of fund managers in any year "beat the index" and the struggle to do so year after year is "relatively unavailing." In fact, only one trust in five manages to outperform the relevant index.

Not surprisingly, there is a trend toward "indexed funds," which are invested in shares from a particular index and thus require no fancy footwork. The logic is impeccable.

The market has all the data about a share and can therefore be beaten consistently only by an investor whose knowledge and judgement are superior to the market's. In the old days such investors did exist: they had inside information. Beating the index legally now requires divine jodgement and the devil's luck in capturing all bid premiums.

Index matched funds, managed by institutions on behalf of others, are long-term investments which need changing at the margin but not churning in pursuit of above-average performance. As Mr Charkham says, being locked in as a long-term investor is "a reason and an opportunity for positive shareholding." And institutions are relieved of the cost of researching all firms in the index "and can concentrate resources on firms where improvement seems *prima facie* possible."

Short-termism, whether in the market or in companies, will not disappear overnight. The market has a vested interest in turnover and those like merchant banks, which manage funds on behalf of savings institutions, have reputations and fees to foster.

But the system is under critical scrutiny as never before: "is there just the slightest possibility," Mr Charkham asks, "that our market system, so excellent when viewed in isolation, may be put at a disadvantage in international competition by those who have superior linkages and lines of accountability within it, and a greater sense of patience?"

The possibility, yes, but the responsibility for improvements lies as much with industry as it does with investment institutions and the stock market.

Standard sale to net £258m

Standard Chartered Bank said it is selling its Singapore headquarters building for 800 million Singapore dollars (£258 million) to DBS Land a property company.

The deal follows the sale of Standard's London head office for £145 million and residential property in Bangkok for £50 million.

Brunning loss

Brunning Group, the advertising company, has set aside £120,000 to cover the cost of a severance claim from Mr Trevor Shonfeld, the former chief executive. The group incurred a £1.2 million loss (£515,000 profit) in the six months to end-September. The 1.75p interim dividend is passed. The shares fell 22p to 98p. Losses per share were 16.9p (9.3p earnings).

Grainger up

Grainger Trust, the property group based in Newcastle, made pre-tax profits of £7.3 million, up 23 per cent, in the year to end-September. The total dividend rises from 4.2p to 5.25p out of earnings up from 20.4p to 23.2p. Net assets per share are stated at 551p (578p).

Memory deal

Memory Computer, the computer systems and maintenance company whose shares are suspended at 7½p on the USM, expects to finalize negotiations on the management buyout of its Irish operations today. Mr Frank Casey, the chairman, is leaving.

Post ahead

Bristol Evening Post raised pre-tax profits to £4.2 million from £4 million in the six months to end-September on sales up from £28.5 million to £31.2 million. The interim dividend is raised from 3.5p to 3.75p out of earnings up from 9.91p to 10.68p.

Presidio buy

Presidio Oil Company of Colorado has completed its $157 million (£98.1 million) purchase of the assets and operations of Home Petroleum, the American oil and gas subsidiary of Gulf Canada.

Fleet takeover

Members of the troubled Fleet Friendly Society voted overwhelmingly for a takeover of the group by Homeowners Friendly Society.

Airbus to BAe

Mr Robert Smith, seconded to Airbus Industrie last April as financial director, is to return to British Aerospace

Asda fulfils profits forecast with interim slide to £83.5m

JAMES GRAY

Little cheer for Christmas trading: John Hardman yesterday

By Our City Staff

Interim results from Asda Group bear out the warning given two weeks ago that profits would be sharply lower. At the pre-tax level, profits are down from £109 million to £83.5 million, but as promised the interim dividend is held at 1.85p a share.

Mr John Hardman, chairman, has repeated his warning that full-year profits will be significantly below the £247 million of last year. Looking ahead he sees a good recovery from the current year's difficult trading conditions.

Dealers were disappointed that Mr Hardman still had no cheer to offer for Christmas trading and the shares dipped 4p to 104p, below the level at which they stood after the initial profits warning.

He maintains the board still has confidence in the "strategic direction" of the group, which has paid £705 million for 61 Gateway stores and pushed its borrowings to £1.1 billion. Mr Hardman says that there is no improvement in sight for the MFI associate, which consolidated a £2.8 million loss in Asda's first half-year ending November 11.

Results of the divisions show Asda Stores ahead at operating profit level at £76.3 million (£74 million) but Allied down at £3.8 million (£6.3 million). Gazeley, the property operation, increased profits from £2.2 million to £5.2 million. But after the MFI loss and interest, profits are sharply lower. Earnings per share are down from 6.36p to 4.88p.

Regina warns of loss

By Melinda Wittstock

Regina Health & Beauty Products, the royal jelly manufacturer which last month forced its queen bee Mrs Irene Stein out of the hive after a boardroom dispute about cost control, has given a warning of an impending interim loss.

Mr Gerald Simler, the new chairman and former finance director, said the implementation of the "stringent economies" introduced after Mrs Stein's departure in November will not show in the six months to end-December.

Regina will not be paying an interim dividend.

The warning comes after a decision by Regina directors to adjourn Thursday's annual meeting to January 12.

Regina, whose pre-tax profits for the year to end-June rose by 5 per cent to £754,000, has blamed rising costs combined with slackening consumer demand.

EC frees bank rules

By Our City Staff

The European Community has agreed to allow banks from any member country to set up in any other country. This will allow French and German banks to open for retail customers in Britain.

The move was agreed by the European Council in Brussels yesterday without full discussion. It was to have been considered at the full economic and finance ministers' meeting on Monday but was cleared early by a research council.

From 1993 all European banks may offer full services in all 12 member countries without approval from national authorities.

Until now, any bank operating in Britain has needed Bank of England approval. Continental banks will now be able to open retail networks in Britain although in practice it will take many years.

Japanese boost at Guinness Mahon

By Jeremy Andrews

The purchase of a 65 per cent stake in Guinness Mahon by the Bank of Yokohama in July has led to a flurry of deals involving both institutions, says Mr Geoffrey Bell, the chairman.

Since then negotiations on about 30 joint lending and leasing transactions have begun, and the once-troubled merchant bank was enabled to participate in underwriting the water privatization issue because of the substantial financial backing provided by its Japanese shareholder.

The news came with the announcement of Guinness Mahon's results for the year to September which showed a fall in net profits from £4.92 million to £2.06 million.

However, this was struck after an extraordinary charge of £4.01 million to cover the closure of its S Jenkins, market-making business, and the costs arising form the collapse of Equiticorp, its former 61 per cent shareholder.

Before this charge, net profits were 16 per cent higher at £6.07 million and earnings per share rose in proportion to 9.38p.

The final dividend is to rise by 0.1p to 1.3p and the total of 2.1p represents an increase of 5 per cent on what would have been distributed in 1987-88 had Guinness Mahon been demerged from Guinness Peat for a full year, according to Mr Ian Dinwiddie, the finance director.

After acquiring the former Equiticorp stake from the Australasian group's bankers, Bank of Yokohama offered 146p a share for the rest in May.

VG shares jump on offer talks

By Jeremy Andrews

Shares in VG Instruments jumped 63p to 537p on news that BAT, which holds 69 per cent of the equity, is in "exclusive discussions" with a potential bidder for the scientific instrument manufacturer.

The shares are now more than double their low for the year of 225p before Hoylake's bid for BAT. The tobacco and insurance group announced in September that its stake in VG was for sale, as part of a corporate reorganization aimed at fending off Hoylake.

After the September announcement, it and BAT had received several approaches about the stake. VG was holding talks with one party, "which may or may not lead to an offer being made."

New deputy governor faces challenge of Bank's role

George prepares to find answers

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Mr Eddie George becomes deputy governor of the Bank of England at a fascinating time. A period of prolonged experiment with monetary policy is entering a new phase in which Europe will loom large. As financial markets internationalize and accelerate at a pace scarcely imagined five years ago, regulatory and supervisory questions are multiplying and changing shape. Partly as a result, the role and constitutional status of the Bank of England are more fluid.

The deceptively easy-going Mr George is well-suited to the challenge. At 51, he is one of the younger appointments to the deputy governorship. Head of the monetary and exchange rate division of the Bank for the past seven years, he has made a name for himself as someone who can talk the language of the economists while keeping his ear close to the ground in the City's financial markets.

One of the biggest questions he may face is whether after all the twists and turns in the Government's monetary policy over the past ten years the time has now come to try a more radical option and give the Bank of England greater independence in running this side of policy. "The central bank's role is decided by politicians," says Mr George. "That's not just a trite remark. Unless there is broadly-based support for the central bank to have a more independent role it won't happen. It has got to come from a general appreciation of the importance of stable money as a precondition for achieving other ends."

Given the right framework, however, Mr George has no doubt that he could make a better fist of running the monetary show than the politicians. "If there were public support for the end, and that was reflected in Parliament giving us a statutory obligation to achieve price stability, then we would be more likely to achieve it than in the past."

Does Mr George think, in his five-year term as deputy governor, that there is a possibility of moving closer to something like the German system, where the Bundesbank has a statutory independence and responsibility for price stability? "It would be nice to think so."

Meanwhile the process of managing the system as it is has to go on. According to Mr George, the changes of the last 10 years seem less dramatic from the inside. "Our instinct always is: wouldn't it be nice to have firm guidelines. But the reality has shown that in a period of rapid financial change, the indicators of monetary conditions can't be relied on to any great extent. They still contain a great deal of information and we still analyse them as we did when they were targets. Increasingly we look at the sectoral components of the monetary aggregates."

There have been, Mr George says, periods when the exchange rate has loomed larger in policy decisions than at others — mainly because of accompanying circumstances rather than changes in the perception of sterling's importance. He said: "It is certainly being given less emphasis than it was two years or 18 months ago, but the process is not abrupt."

Whether the extension of the ERM to include Britain should be followed by closer monetary integration in Europe remains very uncertain. "It is absolutely clear now that we will join the ERM when we have restored better balance to the British economy. If you are committed to stable prices and you discuss performance subject to peer pressures you can leave monetary policy to the national authorities. That is the best way for the ERM, and that is what we are moving towards — a committee of governors. If that delivers then you may go on in the same way. A common monetary policy may evolve *de facto*."

Mr George will have plenty to think about in the regulatory area where questions of functional or institutional regulation and international settlement are likely to occupy attention during the 1990s. The development of the Bank will depend greatly on the answers.

It can make you richer, a better lover and a nicer person.

Richer
The Atari Portfolio is the first PC compatible computer that fits in your pocket. You can transfer material from your secretary's PC as well as import Lotus 1-2-3 data from your own. So wherever you are, while others work on the crossword, you can be working on your next pay rise.

Better Lover
Bleep... bleep... it's her birthday. She wears Poison by Dior. Here's the number of her favourite restaurant and don't forget to cancel the early meeting tomorrow so you can have a lie-in.

Nicer Person
The Atari Portfolio handles word-processing just like a PC. So, on your way home you can catch up on your correspondence, correct your secretary's typos and finish off the work of the day. Leaving yourself free to spend the evening being a warm and wonderful person.

What more could you want for £249.99?

ATARI *Portfolio*

Available from Dixons, Alfders and all good computer dealers, or by mail order from Silica Shop on 01-309 1111.

STOCK MARKET

Anglian surges on speculation

Anglian Water raced into the lead as the favourite among investors of the 10 water companies floated this week, with a rise of 6½p to 162½p.

This latest flurry nf activity, whicb saw a further 18 millinn shares traded, was prompted hy revived stories nf stakebuilding by Norwich Union, which is reckoned to have picked up a block of 10 millino shares, or 3 per cent, during the first day's dealing on Tuesday.

Added tn its own allocation, Norwich is reckoned to account for about 5 per cent of its own local water company.

But Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is telling clients that after this initial splash, Anglian is looking a bit expensive. It has given warning that the Norwich is unlikely to take its stake much above 5 per cent and that will be the sign for the price to start coming down. Kleinwort reckons Thames Water, down 1p at 136p, and Welsh Water, 1p up at 142p, represent better value for money.

Northumbrian, which made all the early running, rose 2p to 159p, while North West firmed ½p to 137p. Wessex Water was unchanged at 152p and there were falls for Severn Trent, 1p to 129p, Southern Water, 2p to 142p, South West, 1p to 146p, and Yorkshire Water, 1p to 148p.

The rest of the equity market contioued to lose ground throughout the session, with prices allowed to drift gently lower on little selling pressure. The market took the latest inflatioo figures in its stride, but was later upset over a worse-than-expected US trade deficit. At 3pm, the FT-SE 100 index was 22.4 points down at 2,344.6. The narrower FT Index of 30 shares lost 22.5 at 1,848.9.

Governmeot secnrities sported gains of more than £½ as investors started to take notice of their attractive yields.

Asda, the snpermarket chain, lost 4p to 104p after reporting a 24 per cent drop in interim figures to £83.5 millioo — in line with expectations. The shares have been a dull market of late after a series nf sizeable profit downgradings. But whispers in the market place claim Warburg Securities, the company's own broker, has indicated to clients that it does not plan to make any more reductions in its estimates.

Britannia Security tumbled 17p to 101p. Panmure Gordon, the broker, has downgraded pre-tax profits for the current year from £13 million to an unchanged £10 million after visiting the company. The group has been hit hard by the slowdown in spending in the retail sector.

The news from Asda also left rival Argyll 6p lower at 202p, Kwik Save Group, 5p down at 580p, J Sainsbury, 5p lower at 254p, and Tesco, 4p down at 186p.

McCarthy & Stone, the troubled sheltered accomodation group, fell 5p to 106p after seeing full-year profits cut from £34.1 millinn to £7.1 million. The company blamed high interest rates and the downturn in the building industry. The fall had been expected and followed just 24 hours after rival Anglia Secure Homes suprised the City with a loss of £4.4 million after heavy stock write-downs and redundancy costs. Anglia slipped a futher 1p to 101p.

British Aerospace, a volatile market of late, lost 10p at 566p after a meeting with analysts oo Thursday night. The group tried to soothe fears about Saudi Arabia's £20 billioo barter defence cootract. There had been talk that the deal had run into difficulties because nf the sharp drop in the price of oil during the past year. It is said that further funds have been set aside by the Saudis.

The share price has also come under pressure from the strike hy engineers which the company estimates will cost it up to £25 million.

But on a positive note, BAe was this week part nf a consortium which was awarded the first British licence to operate a personal communications network.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the investment bank, expects pre-tax profits in the current year at BAe to grow from £236 million to £260 million.

VG Instruments has been forced by the strong rise in its share price to confirm that it is in talks with someone about a possible offer fnr the company. Shares of the scientific instruments group responded to the news with a leap of 57p to 531p.

VGI is 69 per cent owned by BAT Industries. In September, BAT paved the way for a hid by announcing that it was looking for a buyer for its stake as part of its unbundling proposals. VGI says it has since received a number of approaches.

There was talk that Fisons, the pharmaceutical group, might be interested in making a bid for VGI. This left Fisons 14p lower at 341p with dealers worried that the group might have to finance the deal with a rights issue.

Elsewhere in the pharmaceutical sector, Glaxo fell 15p to 792p and SmithKline Beecham lost 6p at 605p. A pharmaceutical seminar in Sweden has been hearing about a new rival to Zantac, Glaxo's anti-ulcer drug, and Beecham's Tagemet.

Wellcome also ran into profit-taking in the wake of Thursday's sharp gains stemming from stock shortages in the market place. Mr Steve Plag and Mr Jonathan de Pass, the leading pharmaceutical team at BZW, remain admirers nf the company and are due tn publish a review of the company next week.

STC remained a dull market, falling 8p to 246p — a fall on the week of 16p. One institution upset the market by selling almost 7 million shares this week. The sale followed a presentation in Edinburgh on Tuesday with Scottish fund managers. The speculators are also continuing to cut their losses.

Ferranti spent another nervous session as the prospects of a rescue bid start to dim. But the share price managed to close above its worst levels of the day, 1p lower at 35p.

Michael Clark

High rates trim BHP interims

From Martin Winn
Sydney

Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's largest group, blamed high interest rates for a disappointing 4.4 per cent rise in interim net profits to Aus$546.7 million (£270 million).

Sales rose from Aus$5.32 billion to Aus$6.74 billion in the six months to end-November. But earnings were held back by interest costs up Aus$73 million to Aus$244.6 million. BHP shares fell 8 cents to Aus$8.96 on the news.

Mr Brian Loton, the managing director, described the result as "less than buoyant" and said record high Australian interest rates had offset firmer demand, higher prices and improved productivity.

BHP's steel and minerals units posted record interims.

Chase Corp sets record loss for NZ

From David Tweed, Sydney

Chase Corporation, the New Zealand property group, yesterday reported the largest corporate loss in the country's history.

The company, which became renowned as a high-flyer in the 1980s share market boom, lost NZ$841 million (£315 million) for the year to June 30. The loss surpassed the previous record of NZ$648 million made this year by Bank of New Zealand.

WALL STREET

Dow slips at start of triple witching

New York (AP-Dow Jones) — Share prices retreated after a broad-based rally at the opening, which followed the release of economic data.

Trading was heavy at the opening of the "triple witching hour" expiration of stock-index futures and options.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 10.88 points at 2,742.75. Standard & Poor's 500-Stock index was down ⅝ and the New York Stock Exchange composite index was down ¼.

The producer price index fell 0.1 per cent in November, while industrial production rose 0.1 per cent and capacity utilization dipped 0.1 point to 82.7 per cent. The October trade deficit widened to $10.2 billion (£6.37 billion) from a revised $8.51 billion in September.

Tokyo (Reuter) — Japanese shares were barely moved in dull trade, dealers said. The Nikkei index rose 90.34 points to 38,271.04.

● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index rose 19.82 points to 2,896.57 — a post-June 4 record.

● Singapore — The *Straits Times* industrial index rose 0.58 nf a point to a post-crash high of 1,468.56.

● Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index finished 3.6 points higher at 1,619.1.

	Dec 14	Dec 13
AMR Cp	63	64
ABA	59⅝	57½
Aetna Life	59⅝	59½
Allied Signal	36	35¼
Alcoa	74⅞	74⅞
Amax Inc	22¼	23
AMR Hess	49⅞	49⅞
Am Brands	71⅞	71½
Am Cyanad	54	53½
Am Ele Pwr	33	32⅞
Amax	33⅞	33⅞
Am Family	17⅞	17
Am Home	107⅞	107⅞
Am Int Grp	107⅞	107⅞
Am Telph	46⅞	46½
Amoco	55⅞	54⅞
Anheuser B	36⅞	36⅞
Arch Dan	21⅞	21⅞
Armco Steel	9⅞	10⅞
Asarco Inc	30⅞	30⅞
Ashland Oil	38⅞	38
Atl Richfld	112⅞	112⅞
Avon Prod	37	37⅞
Bk Boston	18⅞	19
Bank NY	38⅞	38⅞
Bankamer	28⅞	27⅞
Bkrs Tst NY	41⅞	43
Baxter	24⅞	24⅞
Beth Steel	16⅞	16⅞
Boeing	58⅞	58⅞
Boise Casc	41	42⅞
Borden	33⅞	33⅞
Brist Myr	56⅞	55⅞
BP	63⅞	66⅞
Broad Inc	11⅞	12⅞
Brunswick	14⅞	13⅞
Burl Nth	30⅞	30⅞
CBS	194	196⅞
CMS Eng	37	37
CPC Int	69⅞	71
CSX Cp	35⅞	35⅞
Campb Soup	49⅞	50
Can Pacific	22	22⅞
Caterpillar	60⅞	60⅞
Centrl SW	39	38⅞
Champion	30⅞	30⅞
Chase Man	39⅞	39⅞
Chem Bank	31⅞	31½
Chevron	66⅞	67⅞
Chrysler	19⅞	19⅞
Citicorp	29⅞	29⅞
Clark Eq	36	36⅞
Coca Cola	79⅞	80⅞
Colgate	64	64⅞
Columb Gas	50⅞	50
Cmb'tn Eng	39⅞	39⅞
Cmwlth Ed	40⅞	40⅞
Cons Edis	27⅞	27⅞
Consol Ng	48⅞	50⅞
Cont Data	15	16⅞
Coring Inc	42⅞	42⅞
Crane	23⅞	23⅞
Curtiss W	58	57⅞
Data Gen	12⅞	12⅞
Deere Co	60	60⅞
Delta Alr	68⅞	68⅞
Detroit Ed	25⅞	25½
Digital Eq	80⅞	82⅞
Disney	130⅞	130⅞
Dow Chem	67⅞	68⅞
Dresser Ind	46⅞	47⅞
Dupont	125	124
Duke Pwr	54⅞	54⅞
East Kodak	41⅞	41⅞
Eaton Cp	55⅞	55⅞
Emerson El	39⅞	39
Entergy	22⅞	22⅞
Exxon	49⅞	50⅞
Farah Inc	5⅞	5⅞

	Dec 14	Dec 13
Fieldcrs	14	13⅞
Fst Chicago	35⅞	35⅞
Fst Int Bncp	46⅞	47⅞
Fst Penn C	15⅞	16
FT Wachva	39⅞	40
Ford Motor	44	44⅞
Fost Whlr	20⅞	20⅞
GTE Cp	70⅞	70
Gen Cp	11⅞	11⅞
Gn Dynam	46	45⅞
Gen Electric	64⅞	64⅞
Gen Inst	37⅞	38⅞
Gen Mills	72⅞	73
Gen Motors	43⅞	44⅞
Gen Pub Ut	45⅞	45⅞
Genesco	8⅞	9⅞
Georgia Pac	30⅞	30⅞
Gillette	47⅞	48⅞
Goodrich	44⅞	44⅞
Goodyear	46⅞	47
Grace Co	50⅞	50⅞
Grt Atl Pac	63⅞	63⅞
Greyhnd	30⅞	30⅞
Grumman	16⅞	16⅞
Heinz	35⅞	35⅞
Hercules	41½	41½
Hewlett Pk	44⅞	46⅞
Hilton	92⅞	93⅞
Hitachi	105⅞	108⅞
Honda	25	25
Honeywell	84	84⅞
ITT Cp	61⅞	61⅞
INCO	27⅞	27⅞
Ing Rand Wl	47⅞	47
Inland Steel	32⅞	32½
IBM	95⅞	96⅞
Int Paper	54⅞	53⅞
Jhsn & Jhsn	58	58⅞
K Mart	35⅞	35⅞
Kerr McGee	50	50
Kimbrly Clrk	73⅞	73⅞
Knight Ridr	54⅞	54⅞
Kroger	14⅞	14⅞
LTV Cp	1½	1⅞
Litton	78⅞	78⅞
Lockheed	40⅞	40⅞
Lone Star	17⅞	18
Man H'nwr	33⅞	33½
Manville	9⅞	9⅞
Mapco	36⅞	36⅞
Marriott	34⅞	34⅞
Mc Morrlnd	40	40
Mesco Cp	25⅞	25⅞
Mcdonalds	34⅞	34⅞
McDonnell	61⅞	62
Mead Cp	36	36⅞
Merck	77⅞	76⅞
Minnta Mng	81⅞	81⅞
Mitsub Bk	22⅞	n.a
Mobil	61⅞	62⅞
Monsanto	118⅞	118⅞
Montedison	16⅞	n.a
Morgan Jp	42⅞	42⅞
Motorola	57	57
NCR	59⅞	60
NL Indstrs	25⅞	25⅞
Nat Med Ent	38⅞	38⅞
Nat Semi	7	7
Norfolk Sth	38⅞	38⅞
NYNEX	80⅞	87⅞
Occid Pet	29⅞	30
Ogden Cp	32⅞	32⅞
Olin Cp	57⅞	57⅞
PPG Ind	39⅞	39⅞
Pac Enterp	48⅞	48⅞
Pac Gas El	21⅞	21⅞
Pan Am	2⅞	2⅞
Pennzl Cnp	50⅞	51⅞
Penney JC	71⅞	72⅞

	Dec 14	Dec 13
Pennzoil	67⅞	67⅞
Pepsico	64⅞	65⅞
Pfizer	68⅞	68⅞
Phelps Dod	60	60
Phil Morris	42⅞	42⅞
Phillp Pet	25⅞	25⅞
Polaroid	44	45
Primerica	29⅞	29⅞
Proct Gamb	68⅞	68⅞
Pub Ser Gr	28⅞	28⅞
Raytheon	69⅞	69⅞
Rynlds Metl	53⅞	54⅞
Rockwell Int	22⅞	21⅞
Royal Dutch	74⅞	76⅞
Sceptor	40	39⅞
S Fe Pac Cp	19⅞	18⅞
Sara Lee	62⅞	62⅞
Schlumb	48⅞	50⅞
Scott Paper	60⅞	60⅞
Seagram	89⅞	89⅞
Sears Roeb	38⅞	38⅞
Sec Pac	40⅞	41⅞
Shell Trans	46⅞	47⅞
Sony Cp	60⅞	61
SW Bell	60⅞	60⅞
Squibb	n.a	n.a
Stan Comp	41	41⅞
TDK	39⅞	39⅞
TRW Inc	49⅞	49⅞
Teledyne	342⅞	339⅞
Tenneco	51⅞	52⅞
Texaco	56⅞	56⅞
Texas Inst	35⅞	36⅞
Tex Util	36⅞	36⅞
Textron	24⅞	24
Timken	26⅞	26⅞
Travelers	38⅞	38⅞
UAL Cp	162⅞	168⅞
USG Cp	4⅞	5
USX Cp	35⅞	35⅞
Unisyr Plc	48	48⅞
Un Carbide	23⅞	23⅞
Un Pac Cp	76⅞	77⅞
Unisys Cp	14⅞	14⅞
Unit Brand	17⅞	17
Us West	76⅞	76⅞
Utd Tech	53⅞	53⅞
Unocal	30	30⅞
Warn Lamb	115⅞	116⅞
Wells Far	72⅞	72⅞
Westng El	73⅞	73⅞
Weyerhsr	26⅞	27⅞
Whirlpool	30⅞	29⅞
Winnman Cp	30	30⅞
Wrblaker	7⅞	7⅞
Woolworth	68⅞	69
Xerox Cp	57⅞	57⅞
Zenith	12⅞	12⅞

CANADIAN PRICES

	Dec 14	Dec 13
Agnico Eag	10⅞	10⅞
Alcan Alum	26⅞	26⅞
Can Pacific	25⅞	25⅞
Cominco	26⅞	26⅞
Con Bathrst	n.a	n.a
Hawk S Can	25⅞	25⅞
Hud Bay M	31⅞	31⅞
Imasco	37⅞	38⅞
Imperial Oil	62⅞	63⅞
Inco	31⅞	31⅞
Royl Trstco	18⅞	18⅞
Seagram	103⅞	104
Shell Can	42⅞	43⅞
Stelco	20⅞	20⅞
Thomn N 'A'	16⅞	17
Varity Cp	2.78	2.92
WCE	20⅞	20⅞
Weston	42⅞	42⅞

CH Industrials up 29% at half time

By Philip Pangalos

CH Industrials, the acquisitive industrial holdings group, made a 29 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £7.31 million in the six months to end-September, on turnover up 44 per cent to £116.3 million.

The specialist engineering and design divisioo doubled its turnover to £58.41 millioo and contributed £3.91 million to operating profit, against £1.95 million, while chemical and polymer products sales rose by 12 per ceot to £19.7 millioo and saw a 30 per cent rise in profits to £1.58 million.

Household products and furnishings reported lower operating profits at £580,000, against £1.5 million last time, after reduced margins on flooring accessories during the preseot slowdowo io housebuilding.

Office products aod shopfitting added £590,000 to profits, down from £1.61 million, oo turnover reduced from £13 million to £10.8 million.

Earnings per share climb by 9 per cent to 6.72p. The interim dividend is improved from 1.05p to 1.2p.

The shares eased 2p to 96p.

COMPANY BRIEFS

MICRELEC GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.77m (£0.63m)
EPS: 4.86p (3.89p)
Div: 1.2p (1.0p)
Turnover improved by 40 per cent to £6.9 million. Directors expect benefits from a favourable market and further product development.

GIBBS MEW (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.89m (£1.55m)
EPS: 14.25p (21.92p)
Div: 2p (1.75p)
Decline in profits is due to timing differences in contributions from from Bridger Properties and a slow down in public house disposals.

SELECTV (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.18m loss
LPS: 0.28p (0.15p)
Div: none
Last year's pre-tax loss was £42,000. The increased loss comes from higher administrative expenses rising to £284,000 (£68,000).

BR BLDG & ENG APPL (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.27m (£0.41m)
EPS: 14.8p (22.3p)
Div: 1p (2p)
High interest rates have affected the market and resulted in reduced profits, with turnover slipping to £3.29m (£3.47m).

BREMNER (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.09m (£0.02m)
EPS: 0.33p (0.13p)
Div: 1p (nil)
There was a trading loss of £8,000, against last time's £56,000 profit. However, interest received climbed to £277,000 (£198,000).

CAULDON GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.90m (£0.27m)
EPS: 1.46p (0.48p)
Div: 0.33p (nil)
Manufacturing order books are lower than last year's levels. Turnover increased to £6.40m (£3.76m).

STRATA INVESTMENTS
Pre-tax: £0.37m (£0.24m)
Final Results. Net assets per share increase to 169.8p (147.1p), and *EPS:* 1.67p (1.11p)
Div: 1.15p (0.70p)

TOPS ESTATES (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.86m (£0.47m)
EPS: 3.69p (1.08p)
Div: none
Rental income advanced to £4m (£2.36m). Additional income of £1.06m came from the sale of the residential units in Corby.

WELLMAN (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.88m (£1.26m)
EPS: 1.8p (3.6p)
Div: 0.75p (nil)
Chairman said forward order book is satisfactory and enquiries are being received at reasonable levels. Turnover fell to £14.2m (£20.5m).

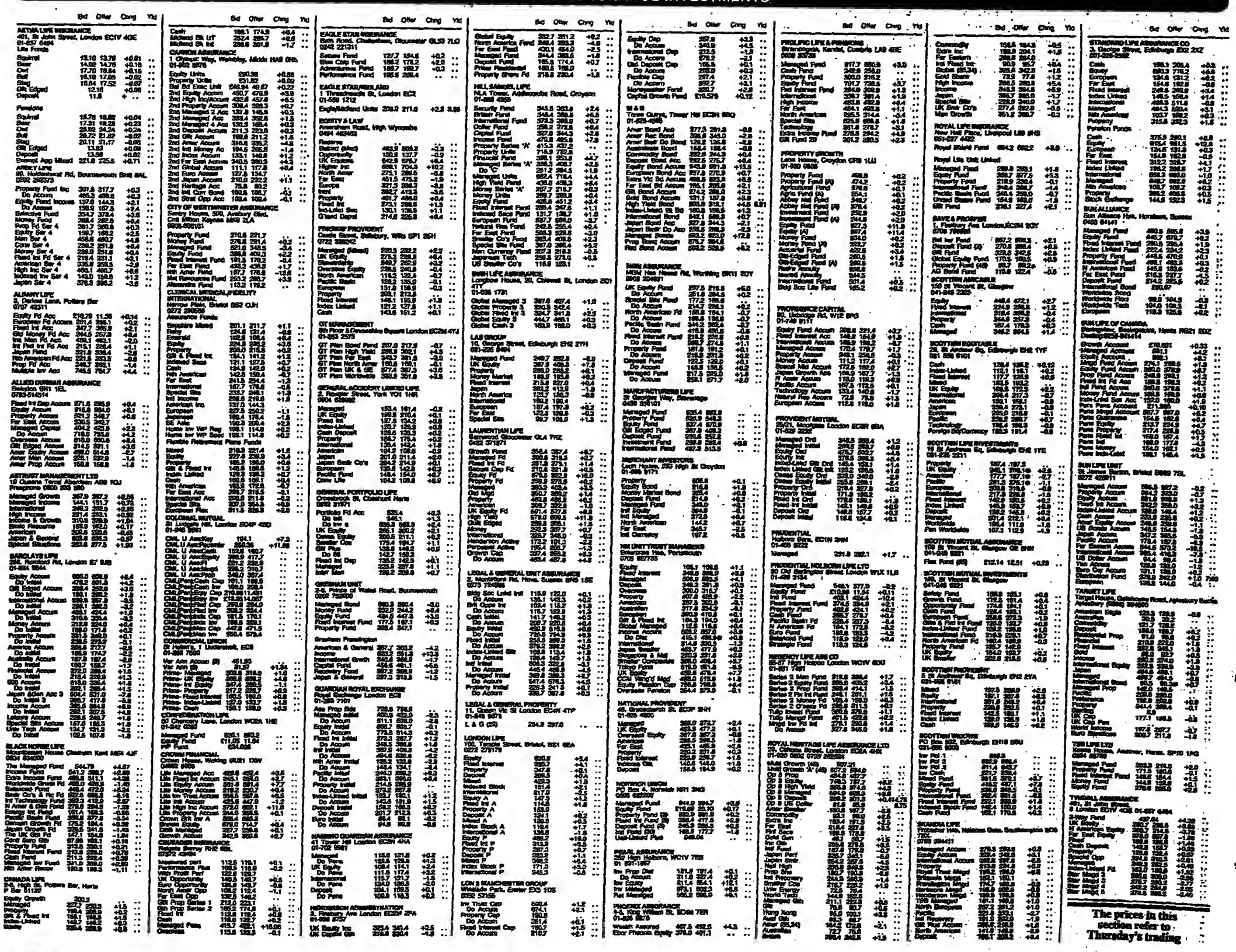
TGI (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.11m (£1.91m)
EPS: 4.2p (7.0p)
Div: 2.2p (2.0p)
The company is cautious about immediate prospects for factored products and and does not expect a contribution from this area.

SWAN (JOHN) & SONS
Pre-tax: £0.19m (£0.22m)
EPS: 18.9p (21.8p)
Div: none
Interim results. The marginal increase in turnover, at £0.64m (£0.63m), has been insufficient to cover additional overheads.

KYNOCH (G&G) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.37m loss
EPS: 67.1p loss (30.7p)
Div: 1p mkg 2p (5.5p)
Last year's pre-tax profit was £0.23m. Net assets per ordinary share slip to £2.24 (£2.33). Turnover climbed to £4.9m (£4.7m).

HARDANGER PROPS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £8.37m (£7.04m)
EPS: 85.8p (66.6p)
Div: 26.5p mkg 37.5p
Last year's total gross dividend was 30p. The net asset value has increased by 68 per cent to £53 million.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS



The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Tyne Tees TV	Leisure	
2	Geers Gross	Paper,Print,Adv	
3	Wardle Storeys plc	Chemicals,Plas	
4	Mansfield	Breweries	
5	SA Breweries	Breweries	
6	Midland (aa)	Banks,Discount	
7	Bromsgrove Inds	Industrials A-D	
8	First Nat Fin	Banks,Discount	
9	Scholes Grp	Electricals	
10	Rentokil	Chemicals,Plas	
11	Westpac	Banks,Discount	
12	Lancaster	Motors,Aircraft	
13	Gieves	Industrials E-K	
14	Tomkinsons	Textiles	
15	Watson & Philip	Foods	
16	Aaronson	Industrials A-D	
17	Hewden-Stuart	Building,Roads	
18	Radiant Metal	Industrials L-R	
19	Ultramar (aa)	Oil,Gas	
20	Dawson	Textiles	
21	Blockleys	Building,Roads	
22	Johnson Cleaners	Industrials E-K	
23	Tottenham Hotspur	Leisure	
24	Fisher (James)	Shipping	
25	Mountleigh	Property	
26	Berkeley Gp	Building,Roads	
27	Sutcliffe Speakman	Chemicals,Plas	
28	Nat West (aa)	Banks,Discount	
29	Mitie Gp	Industrials L-R	
30	Iceland Frozen	Foods	
31	EMAP	Newspapers,Pub	
32	Saatchi 10p (aa)	Paper,Print,Adv	
33	Rechem	Industrials L-R	
34	Time Products	Drapery,Stores	
35	Runciman (Walter)	Shipping	
36	Barlow Rand	Industrials A-D	
37	Babcock	Industrials A-D	
38	BOC (aa)	Industrials A-D	
39	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
40	Dowty	Motors,Aircraft	
41	Nobo Gp	Industrials L-R	
42	Ans New Z	Banks,Discount	
43	TT Group	Industrials S-Z	
44	Ryl Bk Scot (aa)	Banks,Discount	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1989 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int Gross yld%	Red yrs
SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
99⅝	97¾	Treas 3% 1989	99⅝	..	3.06	0.208
100⅝	95	Treas C 9¾% 1989	99⅝	..	9.51	12.488
102¼	97¾	Exch 2¾% 1989	99⅝	+⅛	2.8	10.647
99⅝	91⅞	Treas 3% 1990	98⅝	..	3.1	32.108
98⅛	91⅞	Treas 4¾% 1990	96⅝	..	6.3	11.868
97⅞	92⅞	Treas 9½% 1987-90	97⅝	..	8.47	13.915
108⅞	102⅞	Treas 10% 1990	98⅝	..	10.2	12.404
99⅝	93⅞	Exch 11¾% 1990-04	106⅝	..	11.0	15.130
101⅝	93⅞	Exch 12¾% 1990	99⅝	..	12.5	14.778
101⅝	93⅞	Treas 13% 1990	99⅝	..	13.0	14.705
99⅝	89⅞	Treas 9% 1987-91	94⅝	..	9.51	16.065
93⅞	86⅞	Fund 5½% 1987-91	92⅝	..	6.2	12.098
94⅞	86	Treas 8% 1991	92⅝	..	8.8	12.600
100⅝	90⅞	Treas C 10% 1991	98⅝	..	10.3	11.905
101⅝	93	Exch 11¾ 1991	97⅝	..	11.3	12.701
101⅝	92⅞	Treas 11½% 1991	98⅝	..	11.9	13.572
94	88⅞	Treas 8% 1992	91⅝	+⅛	8.7	12.221
98⅝	92⅞	Treas 10% 1992	96⅝	+⅛	10.4	12.241
108⅞	97⅞	Treas C 10½% 1992	97	+⅛	10.8	11.343
103⅞	97⅞	Exch 12¾% 1992	100⅛	+⅛	12.1	12.010
106⅝	95⅞	Treas 12¾% 1992	100⅞	+⅛	12.6	12.388
109⅝	100⅝	Exch 13¾% 1992	109⅝	+⅛	13.0	11.828
98	94	Fund 9% 1993	96⅝	..	7.0	10.611
101⅝	94	Treas 8¾% 1993	97⅞	+⅛	8.6	11.694
100⅝	92⅞	Treas 10% 1993	98	+⅛	10.4	11.479
108⅝	97⅞	Treas 12½% 1993	102⅞	+⅛	12.1	11.859
113⅝	107⅞	Treas 13¾% 1993	107⅞	+⅛	12.8	11.487
FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
94⅝	86	Treas 8¾% 1994	90⅝	+⅛	9.3	11.447
92	82	Treas 8¾% 1994 a	92	..	..	..
98⅝	87⅞	Treas 9% 1994	92⅝	+⅛	9.7	11.132
100⅝	91⅞	Treas 10% 1994	96⅝	+⅛	10.4	11.176
110⅝	101⅝	Exch 12¾% 1994	104	+⅛	12.2	11.268
105⅝	102⅞	Exch 13¾% 1994	107	+⅛	12.8	11.358
117⅝	107⅞	Treas 14¾% 1994	110⅝	+⅛	13.1	11.254
79⅝	72	Gas 0% 1990-95	76	..	4.09	8.383
101⅝	90⅝	Exch 12¾% 1995	98⅝	+⅛	10.8	11.141
100⅝	97⅞	Treas 12% 1995	102⅝	+⅛	11.8	11.355
113⅝	101⅝	Treas 12¾% 1995	107⅞	+⅛	11.9	10.968
97⅞	80⅝	Treas 8% 1995-98	91⅝	+⅛	8.3	10.842
101⅝	91⅞	Conv 10% 1996	98⅝	+⅛	10.2	10.567
117⅝	98⅝	Exch 13¾% 1996	119	+⅛	12.0	10.966
119⅝	105⅞	Treas 14% 1996	111⅝	+⅛	12.6	11.210
128⅝	113	Treas 15¾% 1996	118⅝	+⅛	12.8	11.046
85⅝	69⅝	Treas 8¾% 1997	80⅝	+⅛	9.8	10.582
104⅝	89⅞	Exch 10¾% 1997	98⅝	+⅛	10.5	10.816
116⅝	104⅝	Treas 13¾% 1997	111	+⅛	11.9	10.898
128⅝	115⅝	Exch 15% 1997	120⅝	+⅛	12.4	11.041
128⅝	115⅞	Exch 15% 1997	120⅝	+⅛	12.4	11.041
84⅝	76⅞	Treas 6¾% 1998-00	80⅝	+⅛	8.3	10.236
100⅝	89⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	94⅝	+⅛	10.3	10.882
127⅝	100⅞	Exch 13% 1998	126⅝	+⅛	11.2	10.748
134⅝	123⅝	Treas 15¾% 1998	125⅝	+⅛	12.3	10.848
100⅝	88⅞	Treas 10¾% 1999	94⅝	+⅛	10.9	10.426
104⅝	92⅞	Conv 10¾% 1999	97⅝	+⅛	10.4	10.588
100⅝	88⅞	Treas 10¾% 1999	99	+⅛	10.6	10.611
116⅝	106⅝	Exch 12¾% 1999	109⅝	+⅛	11.3	10.749
94	84	Treas 8% 2000	88⅝	+⅛	9.3	10.309
97⅝	86⅝	Conv 9% 2000	91⅝	+⅛	9.7	10.312
128⅝	107⅞	Treas 13% 2000	113⅝	+⅛	11.3	10.708
102⅝	92⅞	Conv 9¾% 2001	95⅝	+⅛	10.1	10.354
103⅝	96⅝	Treas 10% 2001	97	+⅛	10.3	10.411
124⅝	108	Treas 14% 1986-01	116⅝	+⅛	12.0	10.982
97⅞	86⅞	Exch 9% 2002	91⅝	+⅛	9.8	10.306
102⅝	93⅞	Treas 9¾% 2002	98	+⅛	10.1	10.291
104⅝	95⅞	Conv 10% 2002	97⅝	+⅛	10.3	10.308
114	98⅝	Exch 12% 1986-02	108⅝	+⅛	11.2	10.816
105⅝	96⅝	Treas 10% 2003	98⅝	+⅛	10.1	10.141
137	112	Treas 13¾% 2000-03	116	+⅛	11.8	10.776
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
98⅝	88⅞	Fund 3¾% 1989-04	93⅝	+⅛	6.2	9.345
102⅝	93⅞	Conv 9¾% 2004	95⅝	+⅛	9.8	10.024
108⅝	93⅞	Treas 9% 2003	98⅝	+⅛	10.0	10.086
113⅝	103⅞	Exch 11¾% 2001-04	106⅝	+⅛	10.8	10.563
99⅝	88⅞	Conv 9¾% 2005	96	+⅛	9.8	9.988
111⅝	101⅞	Exch 10¾% 2005	103⅝	+⅛	10.3	9.961
125⅝	110	Treas 12¾% 2003-05	117	+⅛	10.3	10.170
99⅝	85⅞	Treas 8% 2003-05	94⅝	+⅛	8.4	9.968
98⅝	83⅞	Treas 8% 2007	88⅝	+⅛	9.4	9.760
118⅝	103⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	110⅝	+⅛	10.6	10.000
101	91⅞	Treas 9% 2008	93⅝	+⅛	9.5	9.701
134⅝	122⅞	Treas 13½% 2004-08	123⅝	+⅛	10.7	10.134
85⅝	83	Treas 8% 2008	85⅝	+⅛	9.3	9.859
102	87⅞	Conv 8% 2011	94⅝	+⅛	8.8	9.697
98⅝	91⅞	Treas 5¾% 2009-12	94⅝	+⅛	6.7	9.488
80⅝	76⅞	Treas 7¾% 2015-18	82⅝	+⅛	9.3	9.602
122⅝	114⅞	Exch 12% 2013-17	121⅝	+⅛	9.9	9.861
UNDATED						
30⅝	24⅞	Consols 2½%	25⅝	..	9.8	—
45⅝	40	Consols 4%	40⅝	..	9.8	—
70⅝	60⅝	Conv 5%	63⅝	..	8.7	—
29⅝	24⅞	Treas 3%	25⅝	..	8.7	—
61⅝	51⅞	Treas 3%	52⅝	..	8.3	—
40⅝	34⅞	War Ln 3½%	36⅝	..	9.5	—
INDEX-LINKED						
134⅝	124	Treas IL 2% 1990	134⅝	+⅛		
112⅝	109⅝	Treas IL 2% 1992	112			
105⅝	94⅝	Treas IL 2% 1996	105			
155⅝	139⅝	Treas IL 2% 1998	150⅝			
130⅝	118⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	130⅝	+⅛		
127⅝	115⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	127⅝	+⅛		
131⅝	117⅝	Treas IL 2% 2006	131	+⅛		
122⅝	111⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	122⅝	+⅛		
127⅝	114⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	127⅝	+⅛		
108⅝	94⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	108	+⅛		
115⅝	102⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	114⅝	+⅛		
112⅝	100⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	112⅝	+⅛		
95⅝	84⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	94⅝	+⅛		

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1989 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Change	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
175	130	Abbey National (aa)	171	173	-1⅛	10.3	8.0	7.0
234	135	Allied Irish	227	235	-2	..	..	..
538	285	Anglo Gp	395	399	●-5	4.9	1.3	10.7
80	57	Manchester (Henry)	72	77	..	2.7	3.8	20.6
230	219	Ass New Z	262	266	+5	..	..	..
22⅝	9⅝	Backhouse	18⅝	..	-⅛	..	..	..
314	225	Bank of Ireland	270	278	●-1	..	..	..
19⅝	17⅝	Bank Leumi Israel	19	21	..	1.65	5.4	6.7
392	340⅝	Bank Lowrie (aa)	335	335	..	15.7	4.8	8.2
115	81	Bank Of Scotland	112	115	..	3.7	4.9	12.4
67	49	Bank Of Wales	50	57	..	2.5	5.8	6.2
588	484	Barclays (aa)	557	560	..	22	6.0	11.4
30	22	Beneficial	21	24	..	1.47	4.4	21.6
383	295	Brown Shipley	352	340	●-2	14.7	4.3	11.2
438	305	Cater Allen	405	415	..	31.3	7.6	13.2
76	54	Cattles	59	62	..	4.5	7.6	8.8
369	137	Chemical	163	170	..	11.5	6.9	7.4
224⅝	154	Close Brothers	204	..	-⅛	..	..	..
22⅝	14	Cobham	17⅝	..	-⅛	..	..	..
250	163	Close Bros	230	240	..	9.0	3.9	15.2
88⅝	72⅝	Commercial	80⅝	..	-⅛	..	..	..
27⅝	15⅝	Deutsche Bank	27⅝	..	-⅛	..	..	..
60	10	Equity & Law	25	28	●+1	2.9	7.4	11.6
291	110	Fuji Bank	272	277	+2	16.7	7.3	8.5
47	19	GRE	17	20	..	2.7	8.0	61.0
293	230	Gerrard Nat	245	252	..	8.7	3.6	21.1
151	110	Guinness Mahon	140	152	..	6.7	4.7	11.8
225	191⅝	Hambros	200	207	●-7	13.7	..	..
69	39	Hill Samuel	59	61	..	1.1	4.9	9.2
485	423	Joseph (Leopold)	450	475	● ..	12.3	8.8	12.1
141	115	King & Shaxson	120	130	..	16.7	4.7	58.3
418	284	Kleinwort Benson	391	397	..	19.6	5.0	5.4
518	394	Lloyds (aa)	434	437	..	23.8	5.5	11.3
49	40	Lon Scot Bk	47	50	..	2.6	6.1	7.8
366	280	Midland (aa)	348	350	+3	19.5	5.6	7.3
352	257	Morgan Grenf	337	344	..	18.5	5.5	7.2

BREWERIES

1989 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Change	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
534	427	Allied-Lyons (aa)	457	460	●-9	20.9	4.3	12.7
11⅝	7⅝	Bass (aa)	10⅝	10⅝	●..	37.8	3.6	8.8
203	148	Boddington	189	195	..	6.1	3.7	17.8
255	190	Brewster (G P)	192	198	..	9.5	5.1	14.3
285	190	Burton (Ind)	250	260	..	6.5	2.6	10.3
460	277	Carlsberg (aa)	380	400	+7	17.6	4.4	16.1
357	225	Grand Met (aa)	335	339	-3	8.8	2.6	11.7
379	298	Greenall Whit	363	367	..	10.4	2.9	14.1
522	439	Guinness (aa)	490	492	-3	12.8	2.6	17.4
597	329	Robinson (aa)	450	460	-3	18.5	4.1	17.0
875	710	Hodgson & Hansons	845	850	..	37.5	4.4	12.0
281	135	Highland Dist	253	255	..	6.1	2.0	24.3
340	285	Marston Thompson	320	325	●+3	14.2	4.4	18.2
240	185	Matthew Thompson	215	225	●..	4.7	2.1	22.5
695	647	Mitchell	675	685	..	13.7	1.7	22.5
440	353	SA Breweries	425	430	●+5	..	..	..
449	384	Scot & New (aa)	427	431	-2	16.2	3.4	16.1
348	275	Vaux Group	327	331	..	13.1	4.0	17.7
400	309	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	385	386	●-1	17.5	4.3	12.7
72	53⅝	Do 'B'	71⅝	72⅝	..	17.3	1.3	24.2
494	413	Wolverhampton & D	440	444	-5	18.6	2.8	14.2
335	275	Young 'A'	488	500	..	14.2	8.0	29.2

BUILDING, ROADS

1989 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Change	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
264	108	Abbey	140	145	..	..	..	..
536	229	Amec	448	452	●-3	20.9	5.4	8.3
400	78	Anglia Sec	98	102	-1	8.7	2.7	..
95	52	Anglo Inf	52	54	-⅛	3.7	3.5	12.3
258	148	Arbuthnot	148	165	..	3.1	2.1	4.8
275	201	Ashtead	245	255	●-1	10.7	4.4	20.4
245	127	BPB Ind (aa)	235	238	●-1	14.2	6.0	8.8
315	238	Bilgemuiden Brick	238	243	..	5.4	3.0	9.8
119	45	Blue Circle (aa)	113	114	..	6.5	5.8	5.1
208⅝	148⅝	Bovis Group	197	199	..	4.3	2.7	17.8
209	137	Bryant Dom	185	188	+1	17.9	9.8	8.0
204	145	Burham	177	179	..	14.7	8.3	5.4
95	28	Bullough	31	34	..	1.1	3.2	8.7
261	125	Bulmer Gp	129	175	+4	8.9	5.1	5.1
161	108⅝	Bud Inter	136	145	..	7.7	5.8	7.4
230	110	Blockley	130	140	+5	4.1	4.4	10.2
303	88	Bryan (Jos)	229	229	-4	8.1	3.5	11.1
314	272	Bull (Henry)	420	433	..	24.0	8.0	26.3
163	94	Burndett PLC	99	99	..	6.7	5.8	11.1
152	124	Br Dredging	143	152	-2	8.8	5.8	12.5
136	81	Brown	103	105	..	3.9	3.8	9.1
168	65	CALA	108	118	-4	4.4	4.7	5.9
255	130	CRH	240	253	-2	..	..	..
103	79	Calebonian Rshy	79	82	..	5.5	6.8	4.1
181	140	Calcey	148	150	..	10.9	6.3	4.8
11⅝	3⅞	Carter Gp	8⅝	8⅝	..	18.7	3.1	19.2
289	192	Cement PLC	110	125	..	8.7	4.3	12.2
231	161	Chas	225	228	..	10.0	4.4	8.7
311	191	Countryside	177	183	-1	5.4	2.9	8.7
231	184	Crest Nicholson	182	186	+1	10.3	5.9	6.7
143	78	Crouch Jonas	98	98	..	3.2	3.3	6.7
511	235	Daejan Hldgs	405	440	●..	10.0	2.4	12.1
49	37⅝	Diamond Hldgs	40	41	..	2.5	6.2	9.8
197	63	Eaga	67	67	..	8.8	6.6	7.1
164	84	Evered	135	137	+1	7.2	5.3	6.7
277	68	Fairclough Hldg	75	81	..	10.0	14.7	7.1
93	53	Fisher Gp	69	82	..	8.8	10.8	6.1
181	68	Galliford	68	70	..	8.0	7.5	9.8
232	155	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	165	205	..	..	..	..
232	155	Gibbs & Dandy (NV)	205	215	●-2	12.5	6.7	12.5
180	135	Hardman Ind	150	160	..	6.1	5.8	14.5
136	102⅝	Hawtin Street	108	130	+1	3.7	2.5	9.8
226	207	Heywood Williams	209	240	-1	16.7	6.7	9.8
425	255	Higgs & Hill	429	440	..	18.9	4.3	9.8
188	73	How Gp	72	77	..	5.4	5.4	8.0
30	37	Howard Hldgs	36	46	..	8.0	5.4	5.4
268	117	Redrick Johnson	121	129	-1	7.7	6.8	8.8
143	97	Jarvis	121	127	..	8.0	6.4	8.8
370	184	Laing (J)	275	284	-3	16.0	6.0	6.7
159	88	Lawrence (Walter)	78	72	●-1	10.0	14.1	8.8
78	48⅝	Lilley	57	59⅝	..	3.7	4.7	8.5
610	280	Linsal (dd)	335	350	..	11.7	1.5	..
387	214	Lovell (Y J)	229	232	..	11.7	5.1	9.0
240	185	Marley	227	230	..	8.7	4.2	17.8
195	118	Marley	127	130	-1	6.5	5.8	7.3
140	97	McCarthy	118	120	..	6.3	5.1	7.8
124	67	Meadows (J)	72	77	..	8.8	5.4	3.9
360	296	McAlpine (Alfred)	327	335	-6	21.8	6.6	8.8
197	73	McCarthy & S	105	107	-5	7.1	6.7	2.4
421	282	Morgan Ind	348	349	●-3	20.1	5.8	8.8
126	108	Miller (Stanley)	125	132	..	5.3	4.1	7.8
472	314	Mowlem (John)	335	342	●-5	26.5	7.0	7.8
145	99	Nibel	117	118	..	4.0	3.4	10.0
211	159	Norwest Holst	173	178	+2	8.0	4.6	11.5
197	127	Pentamon	134	136	-1	8.4	6.7	6.0
115	67	Pennink Timber	88	92	..	3.7	4.1	12.8
78⅝	70⅝	Pochin	73	74	..	3.9	5.4	8.8
171	110	Prestige	148	150	..	10.0	6.7	8.8
610	501	RMC Gp (aa)	588	590	+2	29.8	5.1	11.4
211	95	Redland (aa)	97	98	-1	6.7	6.8	7.7
415	410	Redland (np)	410	412	..	28.2	6.8	10.4
222	132⅝	Rugby Group	180	180	-4	7.7	4.9	6.8
285	67	Sheppe & Fisher	97	104	..	6.8	5.2	12.6
185	7⅝	Sheffield Ind	17	13	..	5.7	4.8	8.7
118	120	Smart (J)	178	183	●-1	8.8	4.7	8.7
497	298	Stanley	361	367	-4	18.3	4.8	8.8
339	211	Tarmac (aa)	292	293	-1	8.8	3.0	12.5
154	92	Tay Homes	98	100	+1	6.8	5.4	3.9
385	235	Taylor Woodrow (aa)	292	295	..	18.2	3.5	13.9
684	343	Tilbury Konos	595	607	..	42.7	7.1	15.0
283	153	Trafalgar House	191	191	..	10.0	5.2	9.7
140	101	Try Group	98	103	..	5.3	6.7	8.0
302	248	Turriff	270	275	●-1	18.3	6.8	7.3
251	126	Wimpey (G)	143	145	..	5.4	9.8	6.8
385	133	Wilson (Connitt)	175	185	..	4.3	2.3	8.7
184	67	Ward Hldgs	75	78	..	3.5	4.5	4.8
486	318	Watts Blake	372	380	..	10.3	2.7	16.5
270	187	Westbury	195	198	..	11.7	6.0	2.5
270	88	Wheelhouse	90	101	-10	12.4	12.1	8.0
271	189	Wilson Connolly	231	234	..	8.2	3.5	8.0
189	137	Wilson (Connitt)	139	142	..	5.4	3.8	8.0
911	203	Wimpey G (np)	238	242	-7	12.7	5.7	7.4
344	87	Yorkshire	108	108	..	5.1	5.4	8.3

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1989 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Change	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
183	110⅝	Albright Colledge	158	160	..	3.7	2.3	17.8
592	344	Amersham	350	358	●-5	14.8	4.2	18.7
192	109	BTR	135	136	..	2.7	7.7	12.3
108⅝	87⅝	Bayer DM50	108⅝	..	+⅛	..	..	..
208	130	Blagdon	172	177	..	11.6	6.8	10.7
184	112	Bond Corpor	177	181	●-1	8.2p	5.8	9.8
583	305	Cmd Gp	442	450	r +17	8.7	2.0	18.5
283	137	Chemicals (W)	207	212	-1	10.4	5.9	10.2
488	233	Coates Bros	400	405	..	16.7	4.1	12.8
253	189	Cooks	188	192	..	13.7	7.2	18.7
239	163	Ellis & Everard	212	218	+1	8.4	3.9	22.8
31	13	European Colour	14	16	..	1.2	8.5	10.4
153	112	Fisons	135	138	..	7.3	5.4	10.1
396	232	Fisons	293	300	●-1	17.3	5.9	9.2
293	206	Halstead (James)	225	232	..	12.7	5.8	7.2
253	195	Hickson	227	232	r +⅛	8.0	4.1	11.1
102⅝	88⅝	Hickson Int (dd50)	97⅝	..	+⅛	..	..	..
13⅝	10	Ipco Chem Ord (aa)	11⅝	11⅝	..	10.7	9.0	9.0
532	358	Johnson Matthey	487	494	-6	19.3	3.9	14.8
402	285	Laporte	328	312	●-6	9.8	2.8	21.8
10⅝	7⅝	Lindustries Hldgs	9⅝	10	+⅛	..	..	..
183	99	Plysu	96	100	..	4.1	4.2	8.0
481	226	Rotriand	368	377	+2	8.1	1.6	28.0
188	125	Scapa Group	138	140	+2	6.7	4.8	10.1
664	242	Victoria Stanleys plc	258	273	●+2	19.7	8.3	14.2
458	313	Wolfenstains Hldg	315	340	..	21.1	6.4	7.2
400	231	Yorkshire Chem	337	344	+1	14.0	4.1	11.0
180	111	Yule Catto	130	135	..	6.3	4.1	11.2

DRAPERY, STORES

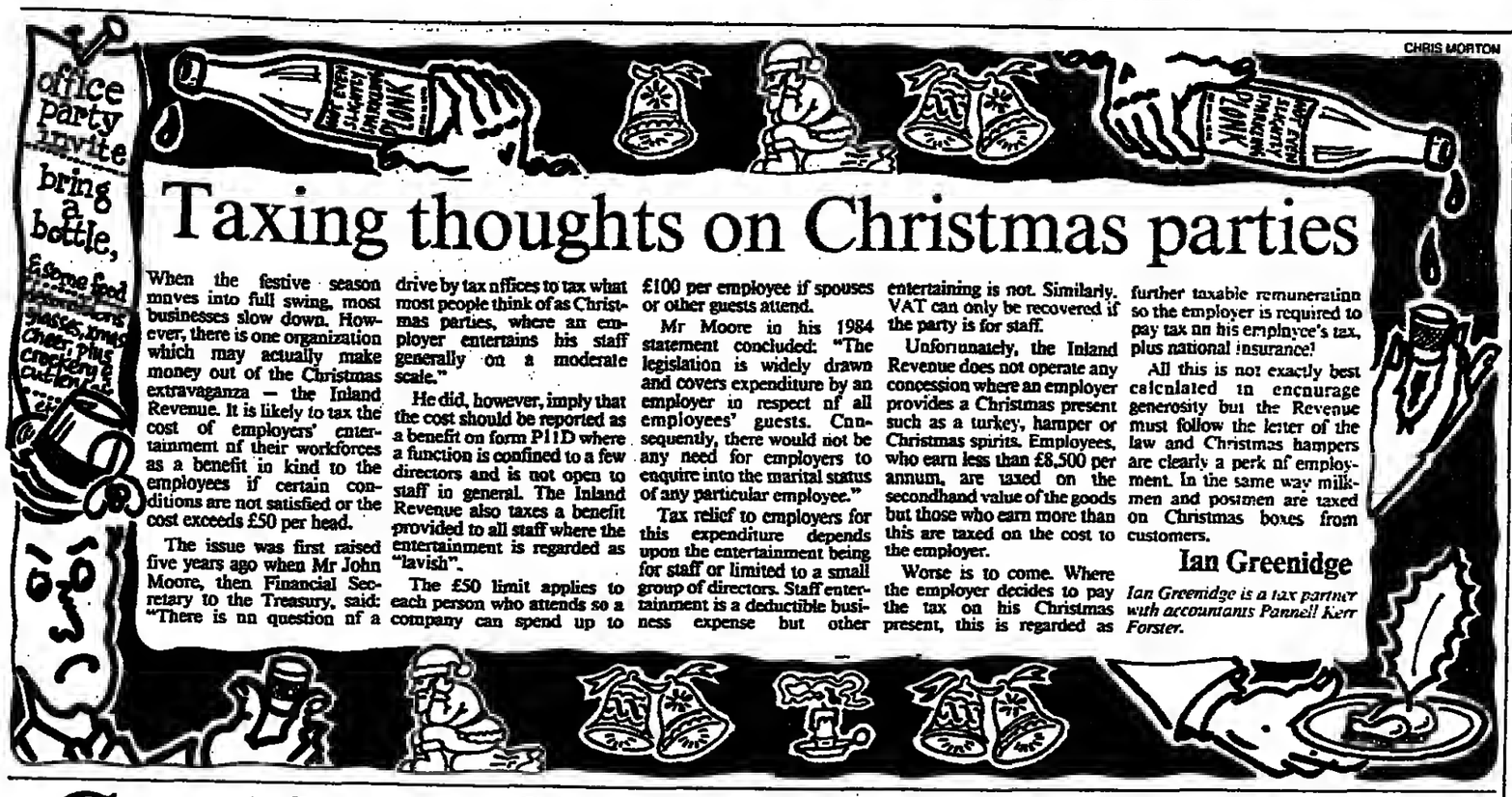
1989 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Change	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
423	314	Alexon	383	388	●..	13.3	4.8	11.1
77⅝	40	Allied Maj	48	50	●..	1.5	3.1	17.4
131	88	Appleyards 'A'	119	124	●..	4.9	3.9	18.8
125	88	Ashley (Laura)	72	82	●+1	3.1	3.8	12.8
425	300	Argyll Grp	393	415	..	12.0	3.0	22.4
148	110	Arthur (James) 'A'	115	125	..	4.1	3.3	14.4
207	170	Bairnfather	182	187

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
80, Holborn Bar, Broadwood Rd, Wandsworth SW6 6AL Tel: 0345 717272 (Lines open 8am-5pm) Dealing: 0277 231910				
Gilt/Fixed	108.8	113.4@	-0.1	5.62
High Inc Equity	137.4	147.6	+0.4	4.32
World Bond	208.1	208.5@	+0.5	4.61
Amer Growth	225.8	241.7	+1.3	1.00
Asian Pacific	123.8	131.2@	+0.3	0.91
Assets/Euro	150.5	160.6@	+0.9	2.18
Capital Res	98.22	99.39	..	9.79
Comm/Energy	110.1	117.4	-0.2	1.49
Euro Capital	101.8	108.4	-0.6	0.89
General	181.3	194.0	+0.6	2.58
Japan	130.5	138.7	+0.4	0.00
UK Gth Inc	118.5	126.8	+0.3	2.51
Do Acc	179.5	192.0	+0.5	2.51
US Emerg Cos	58.22	59.81	+0.47	0.00
Income/Gth	309.8	331.4@	+1.1	3.09
Master Inv Acc	94.84	101.5	+0.27	1.67
Amer Inc	54.82	60.24	+0.43	1.65
Ethical	47.49	50.80	+0.44	1.97
ARTHUR MANAGEMENT LTD				
16, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Tel: (224) 639078 Dealing (Freephone) 0800 289890				
30, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7DQ Tel: 01-374 6001				
Am Inc/Gth	34.12	36.45	+0.41	2.97
Euro	78.51	84.89	-0.14	0.00
Euro Inc	76.72	83.08@	-0.35	2.10
Exempt	187.4	218.9	+1.9	1.63
Extra Inc	44.39	47.32@	+0.34	4.23
Fd Emerg Ec	84.39	89.82	+0.78	0.00
Interest	128.7	145.9	+0.2	1.88
Do Acc	214.3	228.6	+0.2	1.87
Gt/Fixd Interest	20.25	21.69@	+0.04	11.43
Inc Growth	72.11	76.82	+0.69	3.59
Inc Inc	68.82	73.58@	+0.48	4.39
Jap & Gen	224.7	239.8	+0.4	0.00
Pacific	48.67	51.10@	..	0.07
Secure Inc	189.9	213.4	+1.0	4.49
Smlr Cos	53.96	57.01	-0.09	2.21
Spec Sits	70.03	74.76	+0.25	0.00
UK Growth	38.07	40.64	+0.09	0.00
World Gth	57.46	61.24@	+0.34	0.00
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL Tel: 0793 614614 Dealing: 0793 616305				
High Inc	355.9	379.0	-0.4	4.15
Equity Inc	198.7	208.4	-0.5	4.67
High Yield	208.4	221.9@	-0.1	4.64
Balanced	197.1	209.4@	-0.6	3.28
Am Inc	27.40	29.37	+0.10	2.68
World Asset Val	37.87	40.23	+0.32	0.94
Japan	186.0	197.8@	+1.7	0.61
Sec of Am	238.2	253.3@	+1.0	0.00
Asset Value	385.2	410.2@	+1.5	2.30
Chase Earn	260.1	277.0@	+1.6	2.92
Recov	112.1	119.3	+0.4	2.10
UK Spec Sits	207.3	216.8	+1.6	0.00
Smlr Cos	166.4	178.3	-0.5	2.34
Capit	286.7	314.9	-0.9	2.29
Am Spec Sit	65.60	69.22	+0.08	1.49
Intl	118.2	125.8	+0.3	2.51
Growth/Inc	175.8	183.2	-0.3	3.61
Euro Gth	24.02	27.76	+0.15	1.60
Pacific	305.2	325.0e	+1.8	0.00
2nd Smlr Co	167.0	178.3	+0.6	1.81
BARCLAYS UNICORN				
Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 Tel: 01-534 5544				
Cash	94.06	100.3	+0.78	3.38
Euro Gth Inc	100.5	107.2	-0.5	1.15
Extra Inc	104.3	111.3@	+0.6	6.92
General	180.5	192.2	+1.2	3.80
Gt/Fixd Income	49.66	51.39@	+0.77	10.00
Inc Trust	463.4	494.3	+3.5	4.82
BARING FUND MANAGERS				
PO Box 186, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4RG Tel: 01-658 6022				
Am Sm Cos	39.36	42.98	+0.21	1.10
Australia	70.50	75.97e	+0.23	1.50
Convertible	49.54	52.67e	-0.35	7.20
East	133.1	141.6	+0.6	1.20
Equity Inc	77.00	81.90	+0.10	5.30
Euro Gth	187.2	198.6	..	1.40
Euro Smlr Cos	188.6	200.1e	+0.1	0.30
Exempt	69.25	70.68	..	3.50
Growth/Inc	82.60	86.85	+0.25	2.70
Do Acc	148.3	154.7	+0.4	2.70
Global Gth	78.25	83.00e	-0.09	0.10
Jap Spec	198.5	212.3	+0.7	0.00
Jap Smlr Cos	184.9	198.7	+0.6	0.00
Int N Am	59.67	63.31	..	1.70
UK Growth	68.82	70.89	..	2.90
UK Smlr Cos	88.66	94.10	+0.25	2.20
Select Man Fd	57.04	60.51	+0.15	1.00
BROWN SHIPLEY				
8-17, Throgmorton Rd, Haywards Heath Tel: 0444 458144				
Financial	151.0	162.4	+0.7	3.94
Smlr Cos Acc	288.1	310.8	-0.3	0.00
Do Inc	170.9	183.0	-0.2	0.00
High Inc	84.91	90.85	+0.20	5.60
Income	108.5	116.1	+1.5	5.34
Man Port Inc	62.13	66.59	+0.16	2.84
Do Acc	169.8	172.1	+0.4	2.50
Nth Amer	68.57	71.23e	+0.58	0.38
Orient	139.0	148.6e	+0.4	0.36
Exempt	302.1	320.1e	+1.2	2.70
Recov	50.86	54.06e	-0.17	3.60
Pension	36.83	38.16e	+0.30	0.00
Inc Recov	31.79	34.02e	+0.16	2.89
Europe	22.06	24.73	-0.07	2.40
Conv Gent	24.22	25.98e	+0.09	7.80
BURMASTER MANAGEMENT				
First Floor 86 Cannon St London EC4N 6HH Tel: 01-236 2868 01-626 5316 Fax 01 283 5407				
Emer Gth Inc	81.53	86.87	+0.27	3.20
Do Acc	82.73	88.55	+0.27	3.20
Fellowship Inc	65.47	69.47	+0.51	4.00
Gen Inc 4	298.9	317.1e	+1.4	3.06
Do Acc 4	512.1	543.3	+2.3	3.06
Inc Fund 3	183.8	173.3	+0.9	4.70
Do Acc 3	324.7	344.5	+1.6	4.70
Int Inc 2	118.2	125.0	+0.5	1.00
Do Acc 2	182.5	171.0	+0.8	1.00
Smlr Inc 5	105.4	111.8e	+0.3	2.51
Do Acc	115.8	122.9	+0.4	2.51
BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
117 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 5AL Tel: 01-488 7216				
Stk Ex Fxd Int	55.16	55.98	+0.01	2.82
CANNON FUND MANAGERS				
1, Olympic Way, Wembley Middx HA9 0NP Tel: 01-902 8876				
Growth	38.99	41.70e	+0.08	2.40
Income	49.91	53.35e	+0.09	5.30
Far East	43.01	45.76e	+0.17	0.00
Nth Amer	40.11	42.99e	+0.29	1.67
Global	59.91	63.73	+0.26	1.54
European	62.75	72.67	+0.23	0.75
Japan	125.9	133.9	+0.4	0.01
Strategic Opp	51.64	55.28	-0.01	1.32
Do Acc	54.86	58.38e	-0.07	5.24
Inc Currency	45.07	47.20	+0.04	8.29
CAPABILITY TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
5 Rayleigh Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex Tel: Enquiries: 0277 227300 Dealing: 0277 231910				
Am & Gen	85.30	90.74	-0.32	1.30
Do Acc	89.48	95.19	-0.34	1.30
European	66.44	70.69	-0.32	0.91
Do Acc	67.87	71.59	-0.33	0.91
F East/Gen	73.30	77.98	+0.78	0.00
Do Acc	73.30	77.98	+0.78	0.00
Gearing	258.5	274.8	+2.6	7.91
Do Acc	271.8	288.1	+2.8	1.91
Growth	271.0	288.3	+0.2	3.14
Do Acc	421.5	448.4	+0.3	3.14
Inc Adm Inc	252.0	263.2	+0.6	4.16
Do Acc	378.4	403.6	+0.2	4.16
Master Portf	237.35	90.52	+0.16	2.21
Do Acc	288.09	98.44	+0.12	2.21
Spec Sits	63.63	67.90	+0.08	2.90
Do Acc	64.82	69.24	+0.43	2.90
Ethical	47.49	50.80	+0.44	1.97
CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT				
PO Box 692 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU Tel: 01-626 3531 01-623 9333				
Amer Index	146.2	153.4	+0.5	1.66
Capel	474.2	500.0	-0.8	4.00
Euro Index	128.3	135.7	-0.3	1.60
Euro S S	77.68	82.98e	-0.29	2.29
Far East S S	70.46	81.58e	+0.38	0.68
Gold Gen S S	72.14	76.29	+0.31	4.00
Income	424.1	450.9	+0.8	5.29
Inc Sp Sits	66.40	72.09	+0.08	1.47
Jap Index	102.0	107.8	-0.1	0.00
N Amer	91.0	96.3	+0.1	1.50
Tiger Index	101.3	107.1	+1.0	1.69
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN Tel: 01-606 6090				
Euro Port	67.10	71.77	+0.68	1.92
Port	60.88	65.22	+0.62	2.62
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND				
2, Dean Stanley Street, London SW1P 3JZ Tel: 01-834 1815				
Inv	538.05	..	4.91	
Fixed Int	134.25	..	70.65	
Deposit	100.0	..	14.65	
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND				
2, Pine Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 01-588 1815				
Income	615.89	..	4.96	
Acc	617.3853	..	..	
Deposit	100.0	..	15.00	
CHASE MANHATTAN FUND MANAGERS				
Leonard Hse, 1 Chapel Street London WY1V 5AL Tel: 01-725 7722				
SC Spec Sits	67.46	60.03	..	5.16
CHINA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
5, Trump Street, EC2V 8AR Tel: 01-796 3671				
Euro Gth	84.28	90.14e	+0.22	1.34
1992 Euro Spc	64.38	68.88	+0.25	0.84
Inc Inc	81.69	85.70e	+0.12	2.57
Nam Gth	55.87	59.75	+0.41	1.65
Pacific Gth	79.75	85.29e	+0.12	3.27
UK Gth Acc	82.22	88.00	+0.54	3.48
Do Dist	76.92	81.69	+0.50	3.42
UK Income	64.87	69.38	+0.40	6.47
CLERICAL MEDICAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
Narrowmarsh Place, Bristol BS2 0JH Tel: 0800 373330				
Am Growth	87.53	92.29	+0.21	0.17
Aslan Gth	29.80	30.72e	+0.11	0.44
Dragon Gth	37.11	39.69	+0.20	0.00
Equity Hi Inc	64.43	67.47e	+0.26	4.90
Do Acc	69.30	72.60e	+0.30	4.90
Euro Growth	38.88	41.57	+0.20	1.01
Gen'l Equity	58.40	61.54	-0.11	2.90
Intl Inc	25.77	27.41e	+0.03	5.30
Jap Growth	58.83	63.23	..	0.00
Pacific Growth	19.85	24.36	+0.09	2.43
Retire Inc	27.34	28.29e	+0.13	5.27
Do Acc	34.82	36.41e	+0.14	0.81
Spec Sits	34.00	36.98	+0.17	2.40
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS				
St Helen's, 1, Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ Tel: 01-283 7500 Dealing: 01-588 9818				
Am Gth	71.58	75.15	+0.10	2.05
Euro Gth	81.58	86.77	+0.50	0.00
Far East	95.98	102.0	+0.32	0.00
Gamma Inc	35.92	38.29	-0.10	2.23
Do Acc	38.38	39.91	-0.11	2.23
Gilt/Fxd Int	44.70	47.00	+0.91	7.44
Inc	64.98	69.11e	-0.10	3.70
Do Acc	72.39	77.01e	-0.18	3.70
Jap Gwth	40.00	68.08	-0.02	0.55
Monthly Inc	46.00	49.94e	-0.01	10.00
Private Inv Pt	51.7	55.00	-0.1	5.24
Profess Inv Pt	60.46	64.26e	+0.10	2.14
Prog Inv Pt	58.59	60.17e	-0.12	2.71
UK/Gen Inc	65.90	70.11e	-0.18	2.71
Do Acc	71.48	76.04e	-0.10	2.71
Wrldw Bond	50.98	53.81	+0.06	5.78
Wrldw Sp Sits	55.85	59.52	-0.12	0.34
Do accum	56.91	60.67	-0.10	0.34
Guilder Gen Inc	103.1	109.9	..	2.40
Guilder Inc	100.1	106.5e	-0.02	4.85
Guilder Intl Acc	118.8	125.5	+0.2	0.91
CROWN UNIT TRUST SERVICES LTD				
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW Tel: 04862 5033				
Amer	142.6	153.3	+1.0	0.38
Canadian Gth	28.71	30.87e	+0.28	0.46
Euro	145.8	156.4	-0.2	0.19
Gm Trust	348.5	373.8	+1.5	2.62
High Inc	364.1	410.8	+1.7	4.45
Intl Tech	131.0	140.3	-1.4	0.84
Jamboree	36.23	40.69e	+0.20	1.27
Japanese	341.0	365.3	+0.6	0.00
Man Int	36.06	38.80	+0.11	1.80
ESN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
8, Melville Crescent, Edinburgh Tel: 0345 500020				
Amer	76.86	83.26e	+0.87	1.20
Capit	137.7	146.3	+0.3	1.27
Convertible	23.70	25.27e	+0.10	7.62
Eurofund	36.10	37.22	-0.10	0.91
Growth/Inc	217.8	231.5	+0.6	4.10
High Dist	167.2	177.7e	+0.8	5.63
Intl	261.4	289.0	+1.0	1.00
Pacific	40.55	43.06	+0.05	0.70
Reserves	26.13	27.74	-0.04	0.00
Smlr Jap Cos	83.92	87.77	+0.86	0.00
Tokyo	249.9	264.9	+0.3	0.00
Ex Inc 2	145.8	152.6	..	1.50
Ex Inc 3	156.5	160.8e	..	0.13
Ex Pacific 4	579.5	595.4	-1.2	0.15
Ex Smlr Jap 4	522.0	536.4	+0.9	0.07
EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ Tel: 0242 221317				
UK Basic Inc	97.57	108.8e	+0.97	2.42
Do Acc	105.8	112.5e	+1.0	2.42
UK Gth Actuary	151.1	160.7	+1.6	2.26
UK High Inc	116.9	117.7e	+0.9	5.73
N Amer Acc	78.23	84.29	-0.22	0.83
Far East Acc	168.5	188.5	+0.6	0.46
Gilt Acc	121.7	129.5	+0.2	9.80
UK GR/Fl Inc	52.82	54.93e	+0.02	9.47
Do Acc	67.85	71.23e	+0.02	9.47
Intl Sp S Acc	48.05	51.76	+0.13	1.29
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
41, Hertington Gardens London SW7 4JI Tel: 01 373 7261				
Endurance	150.7	160.3	+0.2	2.25
EQUITABLE UNITS ADMINISTRATION				
Walton Street Aylesbury, HP21 7QW Tel: (296) 431480				
Equity Pension	108.5	114.5	-0.26	4.08
High Inc	111.8	171.4@	-0.04	5.68
Gt/Fixd Interest	49.41	52.01	-0.07	8.42
T Of Inv Tr	118.9	126.9	+0.10	2.16
Spec Sits	110.0	115.8	-0.01	0.64
N Am	78.04	82.18	-0.16	1.19
Far East	180.0	208.5	+0.76	0.60
Inc Gth	62.67	67.00	-0.17	1.81
Euro	59.49	62.62	+0.08	1.44
EQUITY & LAW				
St. George Hse Cheapside St. Coventry Cvt 1W2 Tel: 0203 553231				
UK Gth Accum	228.9	243.6	+0.1	3.67
Do Inc	181.0	192.4	..	3.67
Higher Inc Acc	428.1	453.3	+1.0	4.60
Do Inc	303.0	322.4	+0.7	4.60
Gilt/Fixd Acc	117.2	123.9	-0.1	9.15
Do Inc	78.91	82.71	-0.08	9.15
N America	154.5	164.4	+0.5	0.00
Far East	277.1	294.8	+1.8	0.20
Europe	243.3	259.1	-1.4	0.34
Gwyn	302.9	324.2	+0.6	3.64
Br Excellence	89.59	94.44e	-0.05	3.42
Br Fdnts Inc	65.82	69.40	-0.09	6.91
Do Acc	80.84	84.73	+0.11	6.91
Global Ops	54.33	63.44e	-0.13	0.12
FS INVESTMENT MANAGERS				
194, West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA Tel: 041-332 9133				
Euro Gth Acc	78.98	84.95	+0.45	7.00
Do Inc	78.71	81.81	+0.44	1.00
High Inc Acc	36.34	37.48	-0.07	4.90
Do Inc	30.84	32.00	-0.06	4.90
Int Gth Acc	40.64	43.00	-0.04	4.08
Do Inc	46.47	51.57e	-0.03	4.08
Service Do Acc	74.08	78.23e	+0.41	1.19
Do Inc	71.70	75.30e	+0.39	1.19
Am Gth Acc	31.39	33.26	+0.08	0.00
Do Inc	30.73	32.70	-0.03	0.77
Euro Gth Acc	28.86	31.91	+0.14	0.61
Do Inc	28.06	31.44	+0.14	0.61
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road Hildenborough Kent TN11 9DZ Tel: 0732 414141 Dealing: 0732 411417 Adm: 0732 411982				
American	150.2	158.0e	+1.1	0.00
Am Equity Inc	34.53	36.84	+0.39	3.39
Am Spec Sits	85.97	88.82	+0.59	0.00
Australia	28.36	29.90e	+0.26	0.02
European	110.9	124.0	+0.2	1.17
Euro Inc	30.58	32.60	+0.53	2.67
Global Conv	23.50	25.14e	+0.13	4.52
Far East Inc	41.32	43.99e	+0.16	2.16
Gt/Fixd Interest	25.31	26.80e	+0.05	8.74
Growth/Inc	131.7	141.3e	+0.1	4.17
Jap Spec Sits	111.6	118.0	+0.3	..
Japan	210.8	224.1	+0.3	..
Managed Int	116.7	125.3	+1.7	0.00
Inc Plus	116.1	127.3e	+0.8	4.10
Famous Name	48.54	52.04	+0.02	0.20
SE Asia	55.31	60.75	+1.02	0.00
Spec Sits	35.71	38.01	+0.18	0.00
Smlr Cos	27.30	29.72	+0.07	0.70
Recov	21.47	27.29e	+0.01	0.61
Money/Bdder	34.90	37.24	+0.19	0.53
Euro Ops 1992	40.19	42.81	-0.17	0.00
FOREIGN & COLONIAL				
Admin: Edinburgh Road Hatfield Essex Tel: Enquiries: 0277 231300 Dealing: 0277 231301				
Inc Income	92.36	98.70	-0.11	2.90
Far East	130.0	138.9	+0.8	0.00
Financials	88.66	90.62	+0.23	2.10
Fixed Interest	50.34	52.99e	-0.04	10.28
Int Tech	123.3	132.1	+0.4	0.67
Nat Res	70.19	84.98	+0.23	1.35
Q/Mess Income	71.40	76.46e	+0.09	4.10
UK Growth	80.01	85.60	+0.30	1.81
UK Inc Fund	108.8	114.3	+0.9	4.69
US Major	62.76	66.92	+0.68	0.00
US Smlr Cos	110.1	117.8	+0.6	0.29
FRANKLINSTON UNIT MANAGEMENT				
3, London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ Tel: 01-638 6181				
Am Smlr Cos	225.8	242.1	+0.6	..
Do Acc	232.4	249.1	+0.6	..
Am Trad Inc	273.3	288.7	..	..
Do Acc	294.0	309.5	+1.2	..
Capital Inc	242.9	255.1	+0.7	2.58
Do Acc	343.7	361.7	+1.0	2.58
Conv Inc	116.8	123.5e	+0.4	6.86
Eastern Inc	174.6	184.7e	+0.8	0.00
Do Acc	96.57	104.3	+0.49	0.51
Extra Inc Inc	98.98	104.6	+0.49	0.51
Do Acc	276.7	292.8	+0.8	5.21
Financial Acc	390.2	349.4	+0.6	5.21
Inc Trust	69.0	73.21	..	0.40
Do Acc	86.07	91.33	..	0.40
Inc Trust	182.7	193.3e	+0.9	5.31
Do Acc	217.3	229.9e	+1.1	5.31
Inc Gth	162.4	203.5	+0.4	..
Do Acc	215.1	228.0	+0.5	..
Jap & Gen Inc	182.1	192.8	+0.6	..
Do Acc	183.9	194.6	+0.9	..
Monthly Inc	138.7	144.6e	+0.3	5.10
PEP 87	67.16	..	+0.18	3.74
PEP 88	58.62	●+0.02		3.86
Recov	207.1	219.1	+0.4	1.69
Do Acc	231.0	245.0	+0.4	1.69
Smlr Inc	111.74	54.25	-0.07	3.50
Do Acc	53.78	56.91	-0.07	3.50
Cheval Gth Inc	50.39	51.88	+0.01	1.00
Do Acc	50.36	51.88	+0.01	1.00
Cheval Gth Inc	51.40	53.06	+0.02	10.00
Do Acc	51.46	53.06	+0.02	10.00
FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS				
Crawley Street, Kidderminster DY3 3BH Tel: Dealing: 0722 411417 Admin: 0722 411462				
Equity Dist	294.3	313.1e	+1.89	2.71
Do Acc	534.4	568.8e	+3.44	2.71
Euro Gth Dist	96.16	102.0	-0.80	0.47
Do Acc	100.1	108.5	-0.84	0.47
Fixed Int Dist	111.7	118.1e	-0.01	8.72
Do Acc	157.8	166.9e	+0.10	0.72
Int Gth Dist	75.98	80.63e	+0.47	0.33
Do Acc	77.00	81.92e	+0.19	4.81
N Am Dist	151.5	160.9	+1.14	0.32
Do Acc	157.5	167.2	+1.2	0.32
Pac Basin Dist	238.3	253.5	+2.50	0.10
Do Acc	239.2	254.5	+2.52	0.10
Short Dist	259.1	273.6e	+1.32	2.14
Do Acc	281.0	296.5e	+1.44	2.14
Stock Inc Dist	90.25	94.11e	+0.18	4.26
Do Acc	92.82	96.82e	+0.19	4.81
Nam Stock Dist	67.57	71.85	+0.63	0.26
Do Acc	69.46	73.86	+0.65	0.26
GT UNIT MANAGERS				
85 Fleet, 8, Dowgate Hill, London EC4N 4YJ Tel: 01-283 2575 Dealing: 01-628 9431				
Am Sp Sits	80.80	85.42	+0.96	0.00
UK Cap Inc	148.5	159.0	+0.2	2.29
Do Acc	226.7	241.6	+0.5	2.29
Do Spec Sits	57.20	61.51	-0.08	1.00
Inc Fund	112.5	120.4	+0.2	6.86
Income	213.3	229.2	+0.7	0.10
US/Gen'l	91.37	98.53	+0.69	0.00
Jap & Gen'l	40.1	43.5	+0.3	0.00
Far East/Gen	208.7	223.5e	..	0.00
Euro	48.1	52.6	+0.2	0.00
Intl Inc	59.64	64.00e	+0.33	5.09
W'wide Spec Sit	78.80	86.03	+0.85	0.00
Global Prp Inc	89.49	94.91	+0.30	1.76
Do Acc	91.13	96.36	+0.31	1.76
Smlr Cos Div	46.35	49.61	+0.19	4.85
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument St, London EC3R 8AJ Tel: 01-623 5333 Dealing: 0277 284421 Services: 0800 289336				
Global Gth	56.62	60.80e	-1.97	1.07
High Inc	91.55	97.00	+0.60	7.16
N Am	139.9	148.7	+0.4	0.00
Pacific Gth	63.19	67.81e	+0.20	0.00
Recov	330.0	353.7	+0.2	4.29
St Vin Inc	120.6	128.4	+0.4	7.30
St Vin US Gth	128.8	137.1	+1.00	0.43
TB Gen Cos	263.6	287.8	..	3.81
TSRSF	148.7	161.1	..	3.96
Euro Gth Tst	69.96	74.65	-0.34	0.60
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
Admin: 8, Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex Tel: Enquiries 0277 227300 Dealing 0277 231910				
Amer Equity	68.28	72.39	+0.39	0.17
Canadian	86.82	92.20e	+0.37	0.00
Equity Inc	119.8	125.7e	+0.5	6.24
Gilt Inc	85.7	90.0e	+0.4	9.31
High Inc	85.60	91.00	+0.61	7.46
Intl Sits	67.89	81.91	-0.86	1.07
Jap & Far East	154.7	164.1	+0.3	0.46
Pacific	77.1	82.0e	+0.45	0.00
Recov/Assets	64.22	68.14	+0.59	2.17
Scandinavian	111.4	118.2	+1.0	0.44
Smlr Cos	32.86	34.74e	+0.28	2.50
UK New Comm	41.78	44.86	+0.08	1.10
HENDERSON				
Premier UT Administration Admin 8, Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex, Tel: 0277 261910				
Am Recov	191.0	129.6e+0.76		1.21
Am Smlr Cos	61.70	65.08	+0.19	0.00
Australian	30.54	32.19	+0.09	0.00
Capit Gth Inc	73.73	78.70	+0.20	3.95
Do Acc	90.14	95.31	+0.23	3.95
European	36.27	37.59e	+0.64	0.31
Gilt Inc	50.59	53.63	+0.01	9.50
Gilt Acc	63.15	66.94	+0.01	9.50
Hedged Am	40.54	43.18e	+0.24	0.00
Hong Kong	38.87	41.53	+0.39	2.07
Japan	186.0	197.7	+0.30	0.00
Jap S/Cap	98.57	102.5e	+0.27	0.00
Pacific Gth	61.45	66.60e	+0.40	0.77
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT				
Blackfriars Hse, 4, Broken Bridge Lane, London EC4 Tel: 01-236 7676				
Intl Gth	119.8	127.3e	+0.70	0.82
Amer Growth	84.54	90.42	+0.67	0.00
Asian Inc	76.34	83.76	+0.66	4.35
Euro Growth	69.62	74.40	+0.54	0.00
Gold/Mines	67.75	71.76	-0.03	0.54
Jap Growth	90.09	96.35e	-0.55	..
Pacific Inc	120.8	129.0	-0.17	2.61
Prop Shares	74.46	79.53	-0.45	0.00
UK Prog Inc	80.00	85.59e	+0.92	4.94
UK Spec Opps	93.13	99.59	+0.46	2

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith



Taxing thoughts on Christmas parties

When the festive season moves into full swing, most businesses slow down. However, there is one organization which may actually make money out of the Christmas extravaganza — the Inland Revenue. It is likely to tax the cost of employers' entertainment of their workforces as a benefit in kind to the employees if certain conditions are not satisfied or the cost exceeds £50 per head.

The issue was first raised five years ago when Mr John Moore, then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "There is no question of a drive by tax offices to tax what most people think of as Christmas parties, where an employer entertains his staff generally on a moderate scale."

He did, however, imply that the cost should be reported as a benefit on form P11D where a function is confined to a few directors and is not open to staff in general. The Inland Revenue also taxes a benefit provided to all staff where the entertainment is regarded as "lavish".

The £50 limit applies to each person who attends so a company can spend up to £100 per employee if spouses or other guests attend.

Mr Moore in his 1984 statement concluded: "The legislation is widely drawn and covers expenditure by an employer in respect of all employees' guests. Consequently, there would not be any need for employers to enquire into the marital status of any particular employee."

Tax relief to employers for this expenditure depends upon the entertainment being for staff or limited to a small group of directors. Staff entertainment is a deductible business expense but other entertaining is not. Similarly, VAT can only be recovered if the party is for staff.

Unfortunately, the Inland Revenue does not operate any concession where an employer provides a Christmas present such as a turkey, hamper or Christmas spirits. Employees, who earn less than £8,500 per annum, are taxed on the secondhand value of the goods but those who earn more than this are taxed on the cost to the employer.

Worse is to come. Where the employer decides to pay the tax on his Christmas present, this is regarded as further taxable remuneration so the employer is required to pay tax on his employee's tax, plus national insurance!

All this is not exactly best calculated to encourage generosity but the Revenue must follow the letter of the law and Christmas hampers are clearly a perk of employment. In the same way milkmen and postmen are taxed on Christmas boxes from customers.

Ian Greenidge

Ian Greenidge is a tax partner with accountants Pannell Kerr Forster.

Gas glows from another bonanza

Any shareholder in British Gas looking for some extra cash to pay for that last-minute Christmas present, should *not*, whatever they do, sell their shares — especially if they are among the 4.5 million who bought them through the privatization share sale of December 1986.

They can look forward to a late Christmas present themselves. They are due a bonus British Gas share, currently worth around 228p on the stock market, for every 10 shares they hold, up to a maximum of 500, provided they hang on for another two weeks.

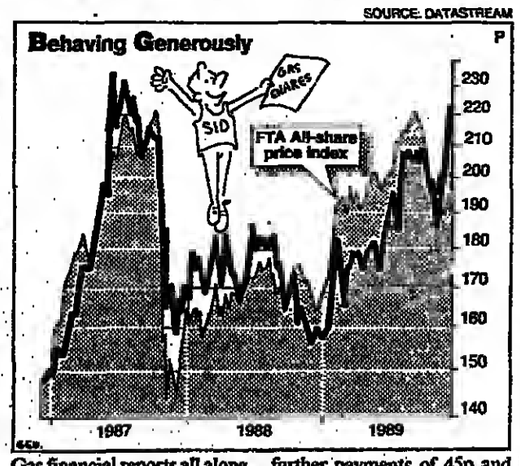
They must be on the share register at December 31 to qualify. They must also have opted for the bonus when they applied for their shares. Those who chose instead to receive gas bill vouchers will not be entitled to new shares.

People who acquired shares in British Gas since stock market dealings began on December 8, 1986 will not qualify, since the bonus entitlement is not transferable, except in special cases. Exceptions have been made where the original owner has died and bequeathed the shares and where under-18s at the time of the issue have assumed their entitlement on reaching majority since.

Joint holders too have been permitted to transfer shares to their partners without penalty.

The issue of bonus shares, which are expected to be despatched to holders on January 20, will not affect the price of the existing shares. These new shares were created at the time of the flotation and have been included in British Gas financial reports all along, so they will not change earnings and dividend calculations.

SOURCE: DATASTREAM



The Government reckons that about 60 per cent of the 2.5 million remaining British Gas shareholders, will be eligible for the bonus, which means handing out an extra 60 million shares.

The Department of Energy which floated British Gas, has retained some 75 million shares to satisfy the maximum demand for bonus shares. The balance of around 15 million, worth some £35 million, has turned into a windfall profit for the Treasury.

The issue marks the end of the British Gas privatization. It has been a profitable ride, too. The shares, sold at 135p apiece, notched up 13p premium on December 8, 1986, the first day of official dealings. They closed at 63p in their partly paid form. Only 50p was payable up front, with further payments of 45p and 40p sought in June 1987 and April 1988 respectively.

Should investors sell in the new year, once they have qualified for the bonus? Mr Stephen Turner, an analyst with Smith New Court, thinks not: "The shares are not expensive in terms of fundamentals like earnings per share, while the 6.1 per cent dividend yield is really attractive."

Mr Turner believes the the shares are worth keeping for the long term. When the icy grip of a hard winter takes hold, investors can comfort themselves with the thought that the colder it gets, the better for their British Gas share price.

Michael Tate

British Gas Shareholder Inquiry Office, 100 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JP. Tel 01-834 2000. Shareholder Newsline tel 01-976 5678.

Banks are steps ahead on best interest rates

Investors with money to spare following the water issue, will be better off turning to banks.

Even though some building societies have geared accounts to attract water investors, most lag behind the banks when it comes to paying interest. Miss Kathryn Deane of Good Savings Guide said: "The banks are very difficult to beat, especially on large sums and at short notice. Investors should also be wary of tying up their money for long periods."

Firstdirect, Midland Bank's telephone banking subsidiary, will deal for customers whether or not they have received a water shares certificate. Its cheque account pays 9 per cent interest after tax on £500 or more. The bank's High Interest Deposit account pays a top rate of 11 per cent net on £10,000 or more. Customers have instant access via cash dispensers.

The best rate of all is on Firstdirect's 30-day-notice account, which pays 11.5 per cent after tax on £50,000 or more.

The Norwich and Peterborough Building Society allows customers to deal without certificates provided they have £1 in their account for every share they wish to sell. The society pays a top rate of 11.9 per cent net on £10,000 or more invested in its Special 85 account.

Leeds Permanent Building Society provides a free water share dealing service for holders of its Liquid Gold or Solid Gold savings accounts, paying a top rate of 11.1 per cent net on £25,000 or more.

Provincial Bank will pay up to 11.73 per cent net on £50,000 or more, withdrawals being at one week's notice. The Cheshunt Building Society offers 12 per cent net on a similar amount but requires three months' notice.

Provincial Bank is also the best choice for £20,000 or more, paying 11.63 per cent after tax with instant access. The rate climbs to 11.83 per cent net on three months' notice. Cheshunt pays 11.6 per cent net on three months' notice.

On £1,000 or more, Exeter Trust offers 11.75 per cent net fixed for three months. The Coventry Building Society pays 11.6 per cent on its three-month-notice account.

Alliance & Leicester's Capital Choice account pays 11.8 per cent on £1,000 or more so long as the sum invested remains locked in for 18 months. Bristol & West's Vantage Bond offers the same on £5,000, maturing in November 1990, while the Hendon Building Society's annual share account pays 11.75 per cent on £3,000 locked in for six months or more.

● Many unit trust groups offer share swap schemes, so escaping dealing costs, but investors with just £100 worth of water shares will not be welcomed with open arms. For instance, at Fidelity the minimum parcel of shares which will be accepted as part of a swap, is £1,000 worth and the total package of shares and cash to be invested in the scheme must be at least £2,500.

Jon Ashworth

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,500-25,000	1 mth	01-626 1567
"	9.75	9.75	7.80	2,500-25,000	6 mth	01-626 1567
Lloyds	10.63	10.63	8.50	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Bmch
	11.07	11.87	8.86	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local Bmch
Midland	10.61	10.61	8.49	10,000-no max	1 mth	01-260 2605
" " "	10.46	10.46	8.37	10,000-no max	6 mth	01-260 2605
NatWest	10.88	10.88	8.70	10,000-24,000	1 mth	01-726 1000
" " "	10.75	10.75	8.60	10,000-24,000	6 mth	01-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	10.64	11.18	8.94	2,500	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	9.50	9.84	7.87	1,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	7.10	7.30	5.84	No mnt	none	01 626 6543
Gerrbank	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000‡	none	051 966 2676
Lloyds HICA	7.00	7.20	5.76	500‡	none	01-325 3336
Midland HICA	9.00	9.31	7.45	2,000‡	none	——
NatWest Special Reserve	9.00	9.31	7.45	500‡	none	01-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	9.75	10.11	8.09	2,500	none	031-556 8555
TSB England & Wales	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000	none	01-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mm	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
North of Engl.	6.90	6.90	5.52	1 mm	none	——
Heart of Engl.	9.25	9.25	7.40	250 mm	——	——
Holmesdale Bent	10.41	10.41	8.32	500 mm	——	——
Chelt & Glouc	10.00	10.00	8.00	10,000 mm	——	——
Teachers	11.00	11.00	8.80	20,000 mm	——	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Holmesdale Bent	10.41	10.41	8.32	500 mm	none	——
Guardian	11.10	11.57	9.25	3,000 mm	30 day	——
Holmesdale Bent	11.04	11.04	8.83	500 mm	60 day	——
Mornington	11.20	11.20	8.95	1,000 mm	90 day	——
Lambeth	10.25	10.51	8.40	250 mm	6 mths	——
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 mm		Rates rise
Alliance & Leicester Nationwide Anglia Flex	6.90	6.90	5.52	500 mm		with larger
	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 mm		balances

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneycare - call 01 404 5766 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c*	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	11.75	8.81	7.05	5-100,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	12.50	9.38	7.50	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond*□	12.50	9.38	7.50		3 mth	041-649-4555
34th Issue Cert †	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-1,000	8 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan†	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General Extension Rate†	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	12.00	9.02	7.23	100-no max	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
New Direction Pin	11.75	11.75	9.98	1,000 mm	1 yrs	Figures from
Regency	10.85	10.85	9.23	10,000 mm	2 yrs	Chase de
Consolidated Life	10.50	10.50	8.92	2,000 mm	3 yrs	Vere call
Pegasus	10.40	10.40	8.84	1,000 mm	4 yrs	01 404 5766
Hill Samuel	10.30	10.30	9.98	5,000 mm	5 yrs	for details

		Holiday rates	£ buys
RPI (November 88-89)	+7.7%	Spanish Pesetas:	175.00
Bank Base Rate	15.0%	French Francs:	9.29
Personal Loan	19.7%	Greek Drachma:	259.00
Credit Card	16-26.8%	Italian Lira:	2025.00

*‡2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less. • Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of maturing matured certificates. †Tax free. *Interest taxable paid gross higher rates for larger sums. □ No longer on sale. Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY*

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Nottingham Imperial 0602 817220	14.25	2k-200k	95	After 0.25% cut for the duration of loan
West Cumbria 0900 605717	13.25	negotiable	95	After 1.25% cut for 1 year
Scottish 031 558 1171	14.00	30k+	90	After 0.75% cut for the first year
BANKS				
Abbey National 0908 691122	14.50 to £60k; 13.90 over £60k		100	
OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)				
Framework Home Loan 0727 48181	13.70	15k-150k	95	After 0.75% cut until 28.2.90

Figures supplied by Bray's Guides Ltd. Telephone 0753 880482.

NOW, A PROLIFIC INCOME -TAX FREE!

The new Prolific Income PEP is a truly exceptional investment opportunity. It enables you to invest in the top-performing UK Equity income unit trust – Prolific High Income* – and receive income distributions totally free of tax. Capital Gains will be tax free as well.

With an investment as attractive as this, there's naturally a limit on the amount you can put in. The maximum allowed by current legislation is £2400 per tax year (£4800 for couples). So don't miss this year's allocation. Return the coupon today for full details and an application form.

*Source: Micropal Limited: from launch on 2nd September 1974 to 1st October 1989

To: Angela Phillips, Prolific Asset Management Ltd., 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS.

Please send me details of the new Prolific PEP.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Prolific Asset Management Ltd is a member of IMRO.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. THE VALUE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. THE TAX TREATMENT OF PEPS MAY BE CHANGED BY FUTURE LEGISLATION.

Prolific FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Committed to your investment success

ROYAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT PRIVATE CLIENT PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Are you confident that your investment portfolio is receiving the personal care and attention it deserves?

The answer to that is probably no. Even when a portfolio of £100,000 is concerned, the level of service that investors receive from most City institutions is surprisingly inadequate. Account executives tend to have so many clients within their jurisdiction, you could be forgiven for thinking that the 'personal touch' is gone forever.

Thankfully, that's not the case. My colleague Ken Hughes and I offer our clients just what they require when it comes to professional portfolio management: a totally independent view, based solely with the interests of our clients at heart, with as much or as little involvement as they desire.

Knowing that the management of private wealth is a highly individual matter, we aim to develop a lasting personal relationship with each client.

Derek Scrivener
Financial Planning Specialist

We have been working together since 1977 and between us have over 60 years' solid experience in the city. Our company, Royal Trust Asset Management Limited, is a fund management house, with no market-making, stockbroking or corporate finance activities, and is firmly committed to the development of its private client business.

If you have £100,000 or more to invest, let us prove to you that tailor-made, unbiased portfolio management isn't a thing of the past. Send in the coupon for a free copy of our brochure, Independent Views from the City, or telephone me, Derek Scrivener, on 01-638 2433.

Ken Hughes
Investment Manager

Royal Trust Asset Management Ltd is a subsidiary of Royal Trustco Ltd, one of Canada's largest financial institutions with assets under administration exceeding £45 billion worldwide and offices across Canada and in London, Jersey, Zurich, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo.

ROYAL TRUST Asset Management

Royal Trust Asset Management Limited
A member of IMRO
3 Finsbury Square, London, EC2A 1RT. Telephone: 01-638 2433 Telex: 9413849 RTAM

Please send me further details of the ROYAL TRUST INTERNATIONAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SERVICE

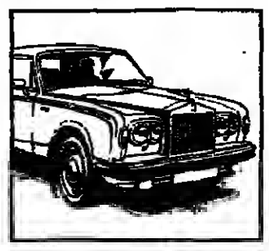
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode

To: Royal Trust Asset Management Ltd
3 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1RT

TT 16/12/89



THE RIGHT PLACE TO PARK YOUR CAR

To advertise your car for sale in The Times Classified, fill in your advertisement in the space below. (Longer messages can be attached separately).

Rates are: £5.00 per line (approximately four words, minimum three lines) £25.00 per s.c.c. full display. (Minimum 3cms) All rates subject to 15% VAT.

Cheques to be made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd. Should you wish to pay by credit card, please quote your number below.

Send to: Pamela Hamilton-Dick, Group Classified Advertisement Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd, Advertisement Department, P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

Advertisement .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

Daytime Telephone: .....

Credit Card No.: .....

THE TIMES

MAKE·IT·WORK·FOR·YOU

ALSO THE NEW M&G EUROPEAN DIVIDEND FUND

The M&G Year Book

40 pages of facts, figures and performance statistics on lump sum and savings plan investment in M&G unit trusts managed by M&G Securities Limited and the M&G PEP managed by M&G Financial Services Limited.

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266. (Business Hours) Please send me a free copy of the M&G Year Book 1989.

Mr/Mrs/Miss INITIALS SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE ECFY

Members of Lautro and IMRO.

M&G

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL

Not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

BRITAIN'S LEADING UNIT TRUST GROUP

FAMILY MONEY

Vivien Goldsmith on investors' hopes and the Ombudsman

Clowes advisers may face a compensation demand

Investors in Barlow Clowes are hoping that any compensatioo paid to them by the Government will be just the start of a larger compensatioo fund.

Mr Joho Dyer, chairman of the Barlow Clowes Investors Actioo Group said, investors would be willing to drop their threatened legal actions against iotermediaries, accountants, auditors and banks involved io the Barlow Clowes affair if these parties were to pay substantial sums into a compensation fund to be shared between all Barlow Clowes investors.

The iovestors want the Department of Trade and Iodustry to accept total responsibility for the shortfall in funds. But they fear that the DTI may only pay £40-£50 million in compensation following the recommendations of the report which was prepared by the Parliamentary Commissioner, or Ombudsmao, Sir Anthooy Barrowclough.

The Ombudsman's report into the Barlow Clowes affair is expected to be published oo Tuesday next week.

The shortfall totals around £200 million including interest on the invested fuods. Nearly half will probably be recovered by the liquidators,

Sir Anthony Barrowclough

leaving investors around £100 millioo short.

Mr Dyer said: "I hope that if there is any shortfall, the City will see that it is its responsibility to make the shortfall up."

In the days immediately following the collapse, intermediaries and others who were called upon to pay into a compensation fund, said that they were unwilling to take any actioo ahead of the DTI.

A sum of £3.2 millioo has been held back from investors in a fund for pursuing claims against third parties by the liquidators with the consent of investors. The iovestors would rather see any DTI money that is paid out, go into a common fund rather than be parcelled out to investors according to DTI or Ombudsman guidelines.

Investors believe that no real distinction will be made between the 7,320 investors with the on-shore arm of Barlow Clowes who have received substantial payments already (the majority have had 63p in the pound), and the 11,000 investors in the off-shore arm based in Gibraltar who have still received nothing 18 months after the collapse.

The Ombudsman's report is expected to look at how much responsibility the DTI as the regulating body in this country, should take for investors who decided to invest in the off-shore Barlow Clowes operation based in Gibraltar. Although the licensing system does not extend off-shore, many investors said that they invested with the company off-shore only because they knew it had an on-shore licence.

Investors believe that the degree of liability of the DTI will depend on the date at which investors put their money with Barlow Clowes. Warnings were given by the DTI's own solicitor in March 1985 that the department might be held negligent regarding future business taken on by Barlow Clowes after so many adverse reports had been received by the department.

The 200-page report by Sir Anthony Barrowclough will be laid before both Houses of Parliament. The response by the DTI will be published oo the same day.

The report is believed to be the most complex and comprehensive ever tackled by the Ombudsman. The DTI, Treasury and other bodies with major roles in the report have been given a chance to see it io draft to make comments about facts.

The investors group is still pursuing a challenge of the High Court ruling by Mr Justice Peter Gibson that all investors should trace their funds as far as possible, not just to bank accounts but also to gilt holdings and to assets such as a yacht or French chateau.

This would mean a kind of lottery with investors oot knowing whether they would come into the tioy minority who could expect to see 80 per cent of the funds returned, or the vast majority who will probably see nothing at all. The case is expected to be heard around oext March.

Metal fund report sent to police

By Wayne Asher

The fraud departments of London's Metropolitan and City police forces are considering a report into the affairs of failed fund group, Strategic Metals Corporation. Prepared by liquidators Cork Gully, the report is understood to raise questions about the handling of clieots' investments.

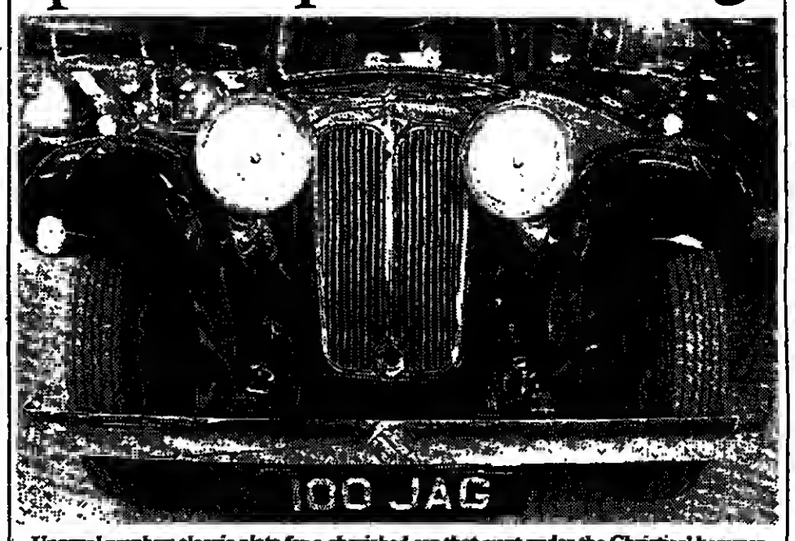
Strategic Metals Corporatioo (SMC) was a Panama registered company that set up the Strategic Metals Fund back in 1980. The fund was registered in Panama City but the investment decisions seem to have been made in London. It was designed to buy into precious metals and rare earths and at one time had over $9m (£5.6m) under management.

SMC was put into liquidation by the High Court in July and top insolvency specialists Cork Gully took over. Liquidator Mr Roger Cork proceeded to realize the assets, which meant selling the metals owned by the fund. But this brought io a mere £110,000, which was only 8 per cent of the amount shown as owing to investors at the time of the last audited statement oo March 31, 1989.

A Cork Gully letter sent to investors said: "Certain matters have been discovered which could lead to criminal proceedings being iostituted against certain officers of the company and other parties concerned with the business."

Cork is sounding out investors on the idea of a fighting fund to finance litigatinn against company officials and certain third parties. So far, it says, around 90 per cent of those iovestors who replied, support such a move.

Number plates passion powers profit-making



Unusual number: classic plate for a cherished car that went under the Christies' hammer

A special number plate on a car usually means the driver is going to work on an ego. Christie's sale of classic registration plates this week demonstrated just how expensive expressing an ego can be.

There were 74 number plates for auction, all of them eye-stoppers and none had beeo previously issued. Bidders paid £1.54 million, twice what Christies expected for them overall. The money will go to the number plates producer, the Department of Transport.

The plates fall into various categories. The registration for the man who has everything is 1A and it went for £176,000. Womeo who have everything, incidentally, rarely feel that they must put up oumber plates to prove it. Among the big spenders however, was doting mother Sheila Bell, who snapped up JUL 1E for her 27-year-old daughter Julie Hesford at a cost of £43,000.

Some numbers on sale, such as 1990 RR or 999 MG or better still 100 JAG, would be wasted without the right car on which to sport them. But others have a far wider appeal.

Any cricketer would be proud of 10 LBW which went for £2,400. Surgeons, pawnbrokers and City market-makers had the perfect way to display their skills in the plates BIO-PSY, IOU and GI LTS. IOU went for £24,200, GI LTS for £13,200 and, not surprisingly given the state of the National Health Service, BIO PSY only fetched £4,950.

Someone paid £5,500 paid for 100 UFO. Perhaps those aliens said to have emerged from a spaceship in Russia last October — 12 feet high and with very small heads — probably got the auction's time and date wrong.

Number plates were introduced in 1903, less than 10 years after local authorities lost the right to insist that men with red flags should walk at least 20 yards in front of every motor-powered vehicle.

Local authorities issued the plates and the London County Council started with A1, though alas that has long since gone. Each area of the country had its own prefix and once the area authority had come to the end with the number 100, it started juggling round the numbers and letters. Plates have since become ever longer and more complex.

In the early years drivers were so rare that councils did not use up their allocations and numbers such as LUV IT and MAR ION, CI DER and MUS IC went back into the pool. Once the Government set up the national registration system with the Driving Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea, it inherited the plates. Now it has sold off the cream of the collection.

Any buyer has to register the marks he has bought for his car and hand over £80 for the privilege but there should be no problems otherwise. The rule is that drivers cannot register number plates which come out after the car has been manufactured but that is hardly a problem with these auctioned plates, most of them being over 50 years old.

Whitehall has done nicely from selling this "classic collection" but has a second little earner up its sleeve. The new Select Registration scheme which comes in next year, will allow people to buy the particular number they want if it happens to be available.

Prices will be fixed and though they have not been finalized they will be somewhere between £300 and £2,000 depending on the number concerned. The first 20 licences for 1990, which will show the letter H followed by the number and then the rest of the plate, will be at the top of the range.

Whitehall has set up a hot line for inquiries (01-200 8888) and has received over 40,000 interested calls so far.

Tom Tickell

BRIEFINGS

■ Next Friday, December 22 is the effective deadline for applying for an old-style Pesonal Equity Plan as a seven-day cooling off period is needed. Investors can put up to £3,000 in an old-style plan for 1989 and then a further £4,800 in a oew-style calendar year Pep for 1989/90 before April next year.

■ Barclays and NatWest Home Loans are each offering mortgages with interest rates fixed at 13.4 per cent for two years. TSB and the Skipton Building Society also have good deals, according to the lastest edition of *Moneyfacts*, which lists the top rates to savers and borrowers. Tel 0692 82808.

■ A Christmas stocking is one of the extras for childreo opening an account with the Bank of Scotland. The Supersaver account for childreo aged up to 16 years, pays interest of 7.82 per cent after tax. A back-pack or management folder is available free to new savers. The stocking costs £6. Tel 031-442 7777.

■ Nationwide Anglia Building Society is offering 11.85 per cent net on a new two-year savings bond with a minimum investment of £25,000. The interest rate is guaranteed to remain at 6.5 per cent above the share rate for at least two years. Instant withdrawals can be made with the loss of 90 days' interest as long as £25,000 remains in the account.

■ Visa card holders can now use their plastic in West Germany, following ao agreement with KKB Bank AG, a subsidiary of Citibank. KKB has 300 branches. There are now nearly 44,000 machioes io 39 countries connected to Visa, including 17,000 io Europe.

■ Couples concerned about the effect of inheritance tax can plan a way around it with the help offered in *Inheritance tax planning - leaving it to your family?*, a guide from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountants. Tel 01-236 8000.

■ Age Concern has published a free guide to belp elderly people or their relatives manage their legal affairs. Seod an sae to Age Concern, 60 Pitcaim Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3LL.

■ Over 100,000 people have applied for the Barclays Assent card since its launch in March. It was launched as an alternative to store cards which offer revolving credit and is part of the MasterCard oetwork, charging ioterest at 19.9 per cent APR. Tel 0604 254478.

■ Allied Dunbar's updated guide to business tax aod law weot oo sale this week. The all-in-one guide looks at many of the issues affecting a business and considers specific legal questions. It includes tax changes made in the 1989 Finance Act. Tel 0793 514514.

■ Forestry Investment Management has launched a Forestry fund for investors with £15,000 or more to spare. The South Hayne Forestry Trust is hoping for returns of at least 5 per cent over inflation until maturity in 2005. There is an initial charge of 5 per cent and no anoual charge. The offer closes on January 12.

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 24).

Share No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+8	+4	+3	+8	+2		
2	+8	+4	+8	+8	+8		
3	+6	+2	+5	+5	+5		
4	+7	+4	+2	+7	+1		
5	+5	+3	+4	+5	+5		
6	+7	+3	+5	+7	+8		
7	+8	+7	+5	+3	+5		
8	+7	+5	+5	+7	+1		
9	+7	+2	+5	+5	+6		
10	+7	+8	+5	+3	+4		
11	+7	+8	+4	+2	+5		
12	+6	+2	+4	+8	+6		
13	+5	+7	+5	+2	+5		
14	+7	+5	+6	+7	+7		
15	+8	+3	+3	+5	+2		
16	+5	+2	+3	+4	+4		
17	+8	+3	+3	+6	+3		
18	+7	+2	+4	+4	+5		
19	+6	+4	+5	+8	+7		
20	+7	+4	+4	+8	+3		
21	+7	+3	+3	+5	+4		
22	+8	+5	+5	+9	+7		
23	+7	+7	+4	+3	+3		
24	+7	+4	+6	+7	+7		
25	+9	+5	+2	+5	+1		
26	+5	+2	+3	+5	+4		
27	+5	+7	+4	+4	+4		
28	+8	+4	+8	+8	+7		
29	+8	+5	+2	+5	+2		
30	+6	+4	+6	+8	+7		
31	+5	+2	+4	+6	+6		
32	+7	+4	+7	+9	+6		
33	+6	+6	+8	+2	+4		
34	+6	+3	+3	+8	+2		
35	+9	+3	+8	+8	+1		
36	+6	+6	+4	+2	+3		
37	+8	+8	+7	+9	+8		
38	+6	+7	+8	+3	+4		
39	+8	+3	+5	+4	+5		
40	+6	+8	+5	+2	+4		
41	+6	+3	+2	+7	+2		
42	+5	+2	+8	+6	+4		
43	+6	+6	+6	+4	+3		
44	+7	+5	+7	+8	+6		

"I'd like a National Savings Investment Account for Christmas please, Santa."

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

The National Savings Investment Account doesn't take tax off your interest before you get it, so it makes an ideal Christmas present for children who are non-taxpayers. (Local banks and building societies have to take tax off and even non-taxpayers can't claim it back.) So nearly all children keep all their interest because very few children are taxpayers.

So, grandparents, aunts, uncles and family friends may find that opening an Investment Account at the post office for a favourite youngster makes an ideal gift for the future. (Children aged 7 or over need to sign an application form themselves.)

But parents need to remember that if they give money to their own children, they would be liable to pay any tax on the interest because it would count as the parents' own iocome.

If you'd like to know more, call us on 0253 715666 during office hours. Or pick up our Investment Account leaflet at your post office.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

FAMILY MONEY

Tim Cockerell advises festive users of mail-order development services to check the small print

How film fun can snap the budget

Low cost mail-order film processing may not always be the safest or cheapest way to cut the family Christmas snaps budget.

Films and prints can get lost in the post and poor processing, when it does occur, is not always readily resolved — refunds cannot replace special pictures.

Product and discount incentives on mail-order envelopes can sometimes be misleading and highlighted prices usually apply to minimum service excluding postage and packing. So anyone contemplating using one of these services should study the small print.

The most prominent — and cheapest — prices are often for three-and-a-half inch prints, while the standard photolab-size four-inch prints are advertised as superprints or special jumbo snaps — at a higher price.

Some companies offering replacement films with processed prints only supply the bare minimum 12 exposure spools — irrespective of the one submitted.

The main alternatives to mail-order are through shops, high street mini-labs or private processing companies, and these too are not always foolproof. Chemists, newsagents and photographic shops send films to the leading processing laboratories — Kodak, Colourcare and Grunwick. Most shops tell clients which companies they use although some, like the walk-in mini-labs, run their own operation.

Although today's technical standards are high with most companies using sophisticated equipment, pitfalls can lie in sloppy operating techniques, peak-time service demands — such as Christmas — and poor machine maintenance.

It is, therefore, worth checking to which processing laboratory the mail-order company or high street shop is linked and, especially in the case of minilabs, whether they run quality control schemes. Kodak and Fuji have across-the-board quality controls which also operate in shops and mini-labs using their equipment. Boots runs its own scheme and private groups which mainly rely on commercial business, are often safer though costly bets if a film is particularly valuable. Prices vary for all methods and depend on time and special extras. Mail-order is in most cases cheaper than the other options with processing costs for a 24-exposure colour film ranging between £2 and £3.50p. Waiting time is usually one week.

Shops operate a next-day service for colour film (longer for black and white) and costs range from £3 to £5 for 24 exposures.

Mini-labs' charges depend entirely on speed of processing. One to four hours can cost up to £6 for 24 exposures, scaled down for longer periods.

Some offer a free set of reprints — if done simultaneously, otherwise reprints average 25p each. In all cases 36-exposure film will work out cheaper per print.

When problems do occur you are entitled to re-order if the processor is at fault. Instances include poor or over-colouring, bad or under-exposure (if negative detail is sharp), chemical splashes, spots and dust (on prints).

More serious faults are ruined films and badly cut or scratched prints and negatives. Processors cannot be held responsible for defects such as red-eye, off-line flash photography, snapped films, super-imposed double prints or blanks and full processing charges will still be made.

Many companies are protected by their small print from big compensation claims but usually — if they accept liability — will offer settlements in the form of photographic product vouchers, albums and free films.

Follow advice from other satisfied customers or professional photographers and when using a mail-order company, get proof of postage and label film spools as well as the envelope. For those who plan a considerable amount of photography, it is worth shopping around for offers on film, slide mounts and albums.

If you buy in bulk or require discounted equipment, photographic magazines and classified newspaper advertisements are good sources.

It also often pays to buy a higher quality camera with flash to avoid problems which could lead to costly processing with no end result.

Putting value on golden treasures

By Jon Ashworth

With the gold price rising, many investors are wondering what to do with any gold coins and jewellery gathering dust at home.

The cost of selling the metal may take some of the shine off investments. While a reputable jeweller is the best port of call when selling jewellery, for gold coins, the British Numismatic Trade Association provides a free directory of dealers.

Mr David Fletcher, the BNTA's secretary, said gold's new popularity could be the worst thing for small investors. He said: "When the price goes up, there tend to be more sellers than buyers, and margins widen."

Costs can add up in other ways; buyers must pay Vat on purchases, and the coins pay no income.

Tax can be avoided by buying coins in Jersey or Guernsey and holding them offshore, but there are still storage costs to consider.

However, over a lifetime, gold coins are unlikely to lose much of their value.

● *BNTA: P.O. Box 82, Coventry CU1 2SH.*

Costs of moonlighting

Earnings from part-time festive season work could go straight out again on unpaid car insurance claims if employees do not declare their second jobs to their insurance companies (Michael Sheldon writes).

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said: "Some workers could be driving without full insurance cover and if they have an accident, although they would still be covered for the minimum legal requirement, they could find themselves seriously out of pocket."

Many jobs are considered "high-risk" occupations by insurance companies and can include anything from bar staff and chefs to licensed premises to musicians, dog-walkers and chauffeurs.

Whether cover can be arranged depends on the insurer and on the extent of car usage.

Consumers seek out legal advice at the end of a telephone line

By Margaret Leslie

Telephone helplines providing legal advice 24 hours a day have been around for 10 years.

Their use is steadily increasing with the growing sophistication and awareness of the consumer, though until this month there were still only four companies in the market providing the service: Allianz Legal Protection Insurance; IRPC Legal Assistance; Hambro Legal Protection; and Legal Protection Group.

Advice line services are usually sold as a legal expenses package "bolted-on" to household or motor insurance policies for about £8 a year, though they are often marketed as being free.

Advice lines were pioneered 10 years ago by Mr Stephen Manson, managing director of IRPC Legal Assistance, now part of Royal Insurance. Its legal services are sold with Cornhill and Preferred policies and those of Royal.

After Mr Manson's innovation, the three competitors moved into the market, each offering round-the-clock advice to more than 2 million people per company. In many cases, the service is available through membership of trade and professional associations or trade unions, though some employers offer it to staff as a perk.

Cries for help most often concern consumer law, in particular on the buying and selling of cars. But Hambro Legal Protection is finding that employment problems are also on the rise with the emphasis on dismissals.

According to Mr Edward Wright, director of Hambro, the "marked increase" may not be just a case of more people getting the sack. He said: "People are more aware of their rights from the increasing amount of publicity on dismissal cases.

● Without the legal line advice, I would not have been able to pursue my claim. I would not have had the confidence or the knowledge ●

"Dismissals are also becoming more complicated. Golden handshakes for senior employees have to take into account losses in respect of fringe benefits and pensions entitlements. They almost need an actuarial assessment."

A management consultant who used a legal helpline following dismissal, found the advice very useful on taking the employer to law. The outcome proved fruitful enough for the employer to supply him with a reference for his next job. In another dismissal case, a secretary said: "Without the legal line advice, I would not have had the confidence or knowledge to pursue my claim. It didn't cost me anything to win my case."

The lines are manned by people described as having legal expertise, which can mean a barrister, solicitor or a legal executive or consultant. Sometimes as in the case with IRPC, the advice required may be better in a more practical context from a non-legal expert in, say, an employment enquiry where a personnel expert would be more effective.

At Legal Protection Group, which is owned by Sun Alliance, advisers at the end of the "Lawcall" line include finance and tax law specialists. Mr James Painter, of LPG's marketing department, says consumer law and building-related disputes, such as house repairs, are at the top of the pecking order of inquiries. Next are neighbour disputes, landlord/tenant difficulties, employment, and family, as in divorce and separation.

For details on legal help lines contact:

● Allianz Protection Insurance, 0345 078755

● Hambro Legal Protection, 0206 870570

● IRPC Legal Assistance, 021-233 0202

● Legal Protection Group, 01-661 1491

Thrills and spills of the housing roller coaster

By Rodney Hobson

Interest rates are high and possibly going up again; house owners are seeing the value of their properties eroded by inflation; the housing market is stagnant and estate agents have laid off staff. Was there ever a better time to buy a house?

It was easy enough to persuade would-be owners to pile into the market last year — and away from the South-east during the first part of this year — while prices soared and the lure of an instant profit was all too visible.

Yet many have lived to regret buying at the top of the market. They have faced rising mortgage bills and seen the value of their homes decline. They have, in a nutshell, paid more than they intended and done worse than stand still, since the first year's payments on a 25-year loan are swallowed up almost entirely in interest payments.

The sharp lesson has discouraged homebuyers from entering the market. Those who buy now fly in the face of convention. They will pay mortgage interest of about 13.75 per cent, and perhaps more if base rates rise again.

However, the brave will have many advantages. Interest rates are likely to be at or near their peak, and any further increase is likely to be short term.

From now on the momentum to the next election will gather pace and the Government will want interest rates at these levels to be fading from voters' memories.

Because there are comparatively few buyers, estate agents are likely to be more helpful.

Gazumping has virtually disappeared. Together with a less-harassing purchase comes the righteous glow of knowing that last year's gazumpers are the ones who have been hit worst.

Indeed, although estate agents generally agree that asking prices are still at last year's levels, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors says sellers are accepting up to 20 per cent off the asking price.

In addition, building societies, surveyors, solicitors, the Land Registry and local authorities have less pressure from a flood of transactions and should be able to deal with the paperwork faster.

Those who buy now, even at knockdown prices, are unlikely to see an initial gain. Prices across the country will lag behind inflation even if they do not actually fall, while that crippling mortgage still has to be met. Builders who committed themselves during the housing boom are still putting newly-finished homes on the market, and may have to resort to gimmicks to sell.

But to do better than buying now — or perhaps a little later in areas such as the North and Scotland where the boom is only just tailing off — would mean catching the market exactly at the bottom, and no-one can forecast precisely when that will be. In the meantime, potential buyers who hold off will probably be paying rent or living in cramped surroundings.

There is the additional risk that if interest rates fall swiftly, the housing market could take off again sooner than expected, leaving slowcoaches competing as prices move against them.

It is easy to forget that the housing market has peaked and fallen before, only to pick up before people realized what was happening. The boom of 1972 and 1973, where prices went up 50 per cent in a year, collapsed with the oil crisis. It was not the end of the world. By 1979 prices were rising 30 per cent a year.

In the early 1980s, price rises again lagged behind inflation, yet when the Halifax Building Society started its house index in 1983-84 it was already recording an average rise of 7.2 per cent. From there it was all uphill; 9.1 per cent in 1984, 11.0 in 1986, 15.4 in 1987 and 23.3 in 1988. With some areas not peaking until the turn of the year, the index was 32.1 per cent up in the first quarter of 1989 over the first three months of 1988.

The simple fact is that people have to live somewhere, and the rental sector has shrunk. There is nowhere else to go.

One may buy now and regret not timing it even better. But when prices rise again, and the size of mortgages with them, those who bought in time will be able to regret all the way to the building society.

THE THINKING PERSON'S GUIDE TO RETIREMENT

INCOME. GROWTH. AND PEACE OF MIND.

If you're retired (or just about to) you know full well that peace of mind only comes from having the confidence and security of a high regular income and capital growth.

But how are you going to achieve it? Will your pension or Building Society savings do the whole job? And if you invest your capital in stocks and shares, can you be sure they'll deliver consistently high regular income, growth *and* security?

If these questions concern you, you should talk to us. Because not only do we understand those concerns — we can do something about them.

We can help you earn a high regular monthly income.

We can provide you with the capital growth you need to fight inflation over the coming years.

And we can help you to pay less tax (and even get tax back for you).

We are Britain's leading retirement income specialists and act on behalf of thousands of clients from our offices throughout the country.

So for peace of mind, why not talk to us now? Complete the coupon and post it to Knight Williams & Company Limited, 161 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0LA or telephone us on 01-408 1138.

Knight Williams and Company Limited are authorised by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (FIMBRA), which is part of the new framework for investor protection established by the Financial Services Act.

A FIMBRA MEMBER

To: Knight Williams & Company Limited, 161 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0LA. T 16/12

Please send me a copy of 'Self-Defence in Retirement' and details of Knight Williams' service to private clients.

Name _____

Address _____

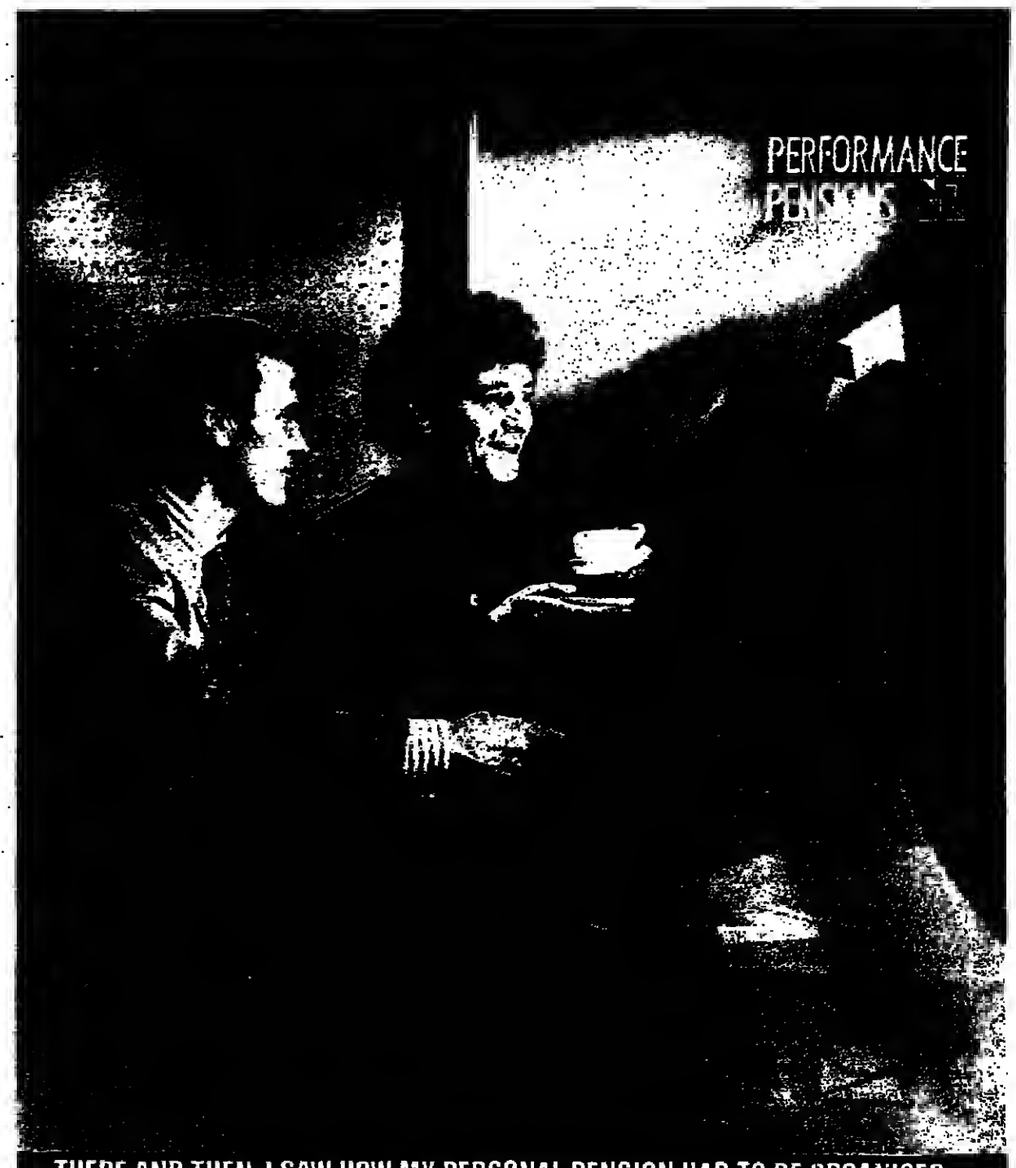
_____

_____

I am retired / I plan to retire in _____ months.

Knight Williams

Britain's Leading Retirement Income Specialists



THERE AND THEN, I SAW HOW MY PERSONAL PENSION HAD TO BE ORGANISED...

The Personal Pension Account of Performance Pensions. Offering the perfect package for self-employed businesses and professional people. The financial strength and investment skills of Clerical Medical. The portability that derives from an integrated range of five Accounts. The flexibility to meet your individual needs today – and react effectively to secure your future tomorrow. All underscored by impressive investment performance.

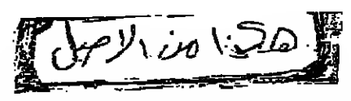
The Personal Pensions Account from Clerical Medical's Performance Pensions. An outstanding personal investment. Just ask your independent financial adviser.

The value of investments may fluctuate and cannot be guaranteed.

Clerical Medical INVESTMENT GROUP

81. Obviously a good year.

At this year's International Wine Challenge, sponsored by Wine Magazine, Tesco came away with 81 awards. Including 4 Golds, 4 Silvers and no less than 21 Bronzes. It's an achievement no other supermarket can match. All in all, a vintage year for Tesco.



- COOKING: BEEF 'N' PIGEON COBBLER
- WINE: DREAMING OF A RED CHRISTMAS
- EATING OUT: JONATHAN MEADES
- SHOPPING: BEST-DRESSED TREE IDEAS

THE TIMES REVIEW SECTION 3

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1989

The art of the London hit men

Stars of the hit musicals, left to right:

Les Misérables: *Peter Karrie and Grania Renihan.* Cats: *Donald Francke and Ria Jones.* Miss Saigon: *Peter Polycarpou and Lea Salonga.* Starlight Express: *Mykal Rand and Kim Leeson.* The Phantom of the Opera: *Robert Meadmore and Jill Washington.*

Photograph by John Timbers

Over the past decade British musicals have upstaged the best of Broadway, not just because they are good, Sheridan Morley says, but because, among other things, they are being marketed, like hamburgers, for easy consumption. Can London continue to outshine the re-awakening American glitz?

The 1980s have been the most triumphant decade in the history of the British musical theatre, at home and abroad. The period that began with the 1981 opening of *Cats* and ended with the Drury Lane premiere of *Miss Saigon* a few weeks ago has established, largely through the endeavours of just five people (the composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, choreographer Gillian Lynne, impresario Cameron Mackintosh, designer John Napier and director Trevor Nunn) the supremacy of the West End musical in a treacherous showbusiness territory that had been dominated by Broadway for all of the century since Gilbert and Sullivan.

It has been rather as though a team of American actors were suddenly to take over Shakespeare at Stratford and show how it should really be done.

Yet something equally important, albeit less noticed, has been going on behind the scenes. To the names of Lloyd Webber, Lynne, Mackintosh, Napier and Nunn should be added that of deWynters, a Leicester Square firm of theatrical printers and publishers, which has created the logos that have not only hallmarked the posters and T-shirts of half a dozen international hits but also symbolized their worldwide marketing.

The face of the orphan child from *Les Misérables* now stares out pathetically but profitably from hoardings not just in London and New York but in cities from Reykjavik to Melbourne, where "Les Mis" (or "The Glums", as it is more irreverently known backstage) has taken more than £170 million since its Barbican opening four years ago.

We have entered the era of the musical as an international package, conceived only in part as entertainment for West End audiences. From their London offices, both Mackintosh and Lloyd Webber plan their new shows, severally or jointly, with a small team of accountants, publicists, directors and designers, before sending out task forces to set up cloned productions around the world.

Despite, or perhaps because of their commercial success, a certain artistic snobbery still conditions many attitudes to the stage musical in this country. There is a reluctance among critics to admit that a great musical can be as magnificent as Shakespeare, Ibsen or Chekhov, for which reason Nunn, in the period of his finest work (from *Cats* to the Glyndebourne *Porgy and Bess* and this year's *Aspects of Love*), is still widely thought of as the director who once led the Royal Shakespeare Company and who has somehow fallen off since.

Those London critics (and they were in the majority) who wrote scathingly of the first Barbican night of *Les Misérables* in 1985, suggesting that this was not the sort of thing a classical company such as the RSC should have allowed itself to get involved with, might now care to reflect that but for its share in the show, reckoned to be running at £1 million a year, it might have declined into bankruptcy by about 1987.

The trouble with the British, as Noël Coward told me when explaining why he had written most of his later scores for Broadway rather than the West End, "is that they have never taken their light music seriously enough", and this would still seem to be something of a problem, even nine years on from *Cats*.

It is not even as though Lloyd Webber was achieving something new with his transatlantic triumphs. While no other English composer had ever had three musical hits playing simultaneously in the West End and New York, the British were on Broadway as early as 1917 in the persons of P.G. Wodehouse and Guy Bolton. The London musical may have had to wait for *Cats* to find its international dancing feet, yet long before Lloyd Webber not only Wodehouse and Bolton but Coward, Sandy Wilson, Lionel Bart and Anthony Newley had all achieved hits in New York to rival many of those achieved by American composers in the West End.

A significant difference between, say, the Fifties and Sixties and the Eighties has been in the selling of the shows. Russ Eglin, creative director at deWynter's, who started out 30 years ago designing the Palladium's posters for Judy Garland, says the producer Michael Codron was the first to insist on imaginative artwork on posters, where before a neat list of credits below the title had been deemed sufficient.

Eglin more than any other artist has been the inspiration behind the revolution in London theatre advertising in the past decade, working on the basis that, like Coca-Cola and Mercedes Benz, big musicals require a logo that symbolizes the show.

"It all began with the *Cats* poster, which to our amazement theatregoers began begging to buy as soon as they saw it. So then we went into mugs, T-shirts, towels, ashtrays, watches and coasters, and now I start work with the creators of a show at least a year before they go into rehearsal," Eglin says.

"*Miss Saigon* took nine months to devise. I started with the sun and the moon, which are very important in Vietnamese folklore, and then went into oriental caligraphy and built in the image of the helicopter, which has come to symbolize Vietnam in all those American movies. Now we are working on a musical about Martin Luther King, which opens next March, and again we have a very strong image on the poster which is being used on all the advance booking forms."

The reason why *Cats* represents such a watershed for Lloyd Webber is that he and Mackintosh controlled all the elements from musical copyright to T-shirt sales.

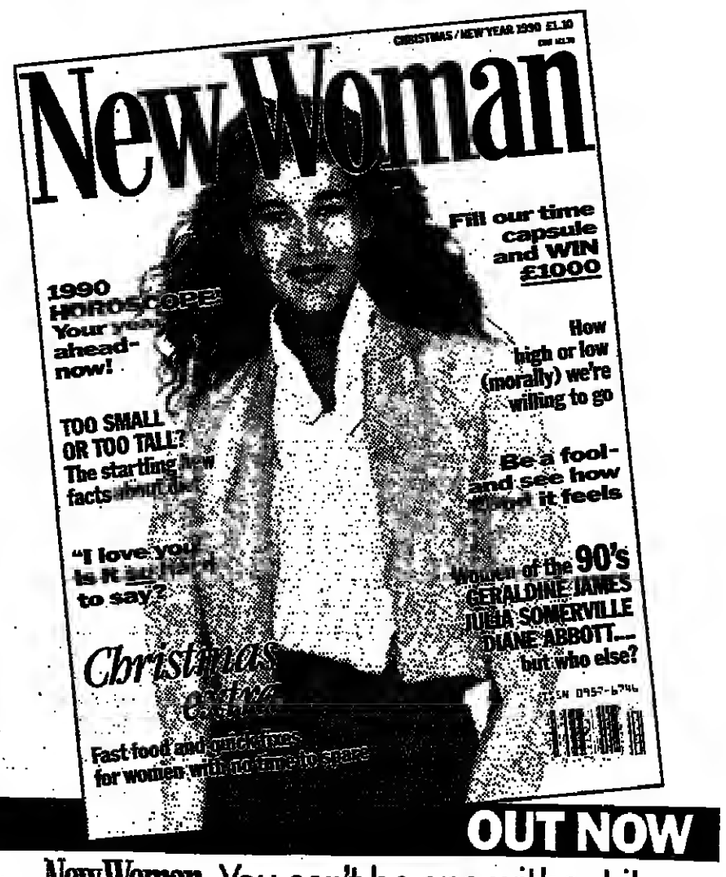
Lloyd Webber, with Tim Rice, had been responsible for three earlier hit shows: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*. But these had been created for other managements, such as David Land and Robert Stigwood, and therefore the composer and lyricist remained, at best, well-paid employees.

A measure of the revolution that the song-and-dance shows

Continued overleaf

"I LOVE YOU"

(But when was the last time you said it?)



OUT NOW

New Woman. You can't be one without it.

THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

Caught in the grip of a European cold influence

It is hard to go anywhere this Christmas without bumping into Dame Vera Lynn. It is also a great pleasure, but I had thought to namedrop an opening sentence about the Duchess of York. However, no sooner was I raising a glass with her slim, tanned grace than Dame Vera was at our side. Our rendezvous was the Hyde Park Hotel, where the Berkeley Square Ball organizers were handing out the splendid sums they had raised for charity.

A few days later and there was Dame Vera again at the Grosvenor House for the television and radio Christmas lunch addressed by Frank Carson, who tells 'em almost as well as Mike Yarwood.

My network of insider information has collapsed this week as My Man in Deal has gone down with flu, like so many elderly persons. In his case a symptom has been a morbid urge to dwell on the history of his complaint.

I thought the flu was a 19th-century affliction but no, Hippocrates knew all about it in the 5th century BC. Until 1743, it was known here as *La Grippe* (it still is to Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* — "A person can develop *La Grippe*", she sings of her cold).

However, in 1743 John Huxham encountered it in Naples where Italians called it "*un influenza di freddo*" or "an influence of the cold". Huxham latched on to the word "influenza" and brought it home to England where it flourished.

Epidemics were blamed on travellers from Russia until the pandemic in 1918 when it was compared with the Black Death. Twenty million people died, more than perished in the First World War. The next big scare was the Asian flu epidemic of 1957 which was traced to China, via Hong Kong refugees.

Asian flu was a popular complaint through the 1960s and once it did me a good turn. When we were producing the movie *The Virgin Soldiers* in Singapore, my colleagues Leslie Gilliat and John Dexter and I were disturbed to hear that an executive of Columbia Pictures was planning to pay us a visit on location.

I knew him as an enthusiastic collector of jade and reckoned he wanted the company to fly him east for free. The only way he could justify the expedition was to solve a crisis, so he set about creating one. He spotted the word "lesbian" in the script and announced it would be unacceptable on home screens in America. He must fly to sort the problem out.

This is just the sort of trouble you don't need when you are making a film. We pondered how to deter him. Fortunately I also knew he was a king-size hypochondriac.

I wired our delight at the prospect of seeing him, advised him that we had reserved the plush Golden Dragon Suite in the best hotel for him and added that he must get all possible Asian flu shots as an epidemic was raging.

My telegram arrived in the middle of a Columbia board meeting in downtown Burbank. It passed the length of the table. The other vice-presidents read it as they moved it down.

"Well," said the last VP as he handed it to our man, "I guess you won't be going." We were left in peace.

I SPENT Monday at the Actors' Centre off Tottenham Court Road, meeting Irish actors willing to go to Southampton next year for Geraldine Aron's play *Same Old Moon*. We saw 40 at a preliminary encounter and I have never come across such a consistently talented line-up.

I have never been to the theatre in Ireland and I was struck by the range of theatrical activity there, judging by the impressive CVs.

For me as, I suspect, for many of us, Irish theatre consisted of the reputations of the Abbey and the Gate and visiting companies in O'Casey and Yeats. I knew that the Gate was the home of the eclectic range of plays staged by Micheál Macliammóir and his friend, Hilton Edwards, and that the Abbey was the rallying point for all things patriotically and natively Irish.

Last week Peter O'Toole reminded me of Macliammóir's witty phrase to sum up the policies of his theatre and of the Abbey. He used to call them Sodom and Begorrah.

O'Toole may be disappointed in *Same Old Moon*. He has a theory that the best Irish plays are built around meals and cooking scenes with real food consumed eagerly by the actors.

He once played in an O'Casey with the late Jack McGowran and had to cook him a massive fry-up. Every night McGowran wiped his plate clean. O'Toole had ordered himself a huge pair of bushy eyebrows for his role which failed to arrive in time for the first night. When they did turn up a few days later he had grown into the part and no longer wanted them. So he flung them into the pan with the rest of the food and McGowran devoured them with zest.

MY MENTION of Ted Ray's first stage name brings a scholarly correction from Erie Thornton of Liverpool. I quoted it as Ned Lowe. Mr Thornton points out that Ted's family name was Olden. He reversed it to produce "Nedlo—gypsy violinist".

Steve Race suggests that at another time Ted also called himself Hugh Nique (shades of Nosmo King). He also remembers an occasion when Ray was addressing a daunting company of stage professionals after lunch. "I was intrigued to see what his first line to this distinguished audience would be. He began: 'You will be wondering why I sent for you . . .' ".

I HAVE had Bulgaria on my mind as the domino effect hits the Balkans. Are we going to embrace the Bulgars as enthusiastically as we are turning on to Poles, East Germans, Hungarians and Czechs? Will names like Mladenov, Alexandrov and Zhivkov soon fit happily on our lips? Shall we forget Georgi Markov murdered with a poisoned umbrella?

Perhaps the most sympathetic Bulgarian was King Boris the Sociable. In 1936 he was shocked to read in John Gunter's *Inside Europe* that he was "the worst dressed king in Europe" because, for patriotic reasons, he insisted on wearing clothes made in Sofia. He changed immediately to Savile Row.

Many of his predecessors were less amiable. Khan Krum, who was in charge during the 9th century, slew the invading Nicephoros and converted his skull into a drinking goblet by lining it with silver — a design concept Sir Terence Conran might care to adopt.

An impressionable successor, Khan Boris, was terrified into better behaviour by pictures of hell painted on his palace walls by crafty Byzantine monks. But in 1014, Tsar Samuel was defeated by a northern invader, Bazil II, known as the Slayer of the Bulgars, who put out the eyes of 15,000 prisoners.

Do we need a *rapprochement* with these people?

Even the name is tainted. *Bulgaris* in Latin was synonymous with perversion and when, in 1223, the French Catholic hierarchy accused the Albigensian heretics (who came from eastern Europe) of the same thing, they called them *Bougres*; hence a popular modern English epithet.

It used to be said that every private soldier in the Bulgarian army carried a field marshal's lipstick in his knapsack. Can we trace this slur to Evelyn Waugh? During the Second World War, Waugh was reluctantly appointed ADC to a general whose company he did not relish. He took to the bottle and, inspired by wine, asked the old boy if he was aware that in the Bulgarian army only officers of field rank were allowed to wear lipstick. He was instantly relieved of his post.

There are other reasons for keeping the Bulgars at arm's length. Are we likely to learn much from their art? The most famous play by Vasil Drumiov ("The Father of the Bulgarian Theatre") is called *An Unhappy Family*. It does not sound like a barrel of laughs to me.

Nor does the latest Bulgarian joke. "Have you heard about the economical mousetrap which works without cheese? The mouse shakes its head in disgust and cuts its throat on a saw." One for Frank Carson?

CAN THE rumour be true that in Hollywood recently, Elton John dared to show Sylvester Stallone his first glimpse of a video of Stallone's *Spitting Image* puppet? It is said that Elton observed the television set being hurled in anger through the window.

FRANCES EDMONDS

If I were...

If I were disgraced billionairess Leona Helmsley, New York's self-styled hotel queen, I would be sitting in my fabulous Connecticut mansion, Dunellen Hall, quietly contemplating the prospect of the next four years in gaol. Convicted on charges of tax evasion, the words of my personal philosophy, "only little people pay taxes", would return to haunt me.

Wandering dazed through this, the favourite of my several gorgeous homes, I would cast a tearful eye over the priceless antiques, the gold accessorized bathrooms, the stunning jewellery and the hoards of designer clothes which I was too mean and greedy to pay for personally.

Sobbing uncontrollably now, I would grasp the hand of my adored 80-year-old husband, Harry, the property tycoon who married me, appointed me president of his Helmsley Hotel empire and made the Leona Mindy Roberts Rosenthal rags-to-riches story complete. He having been deemed too ill and incompetent to stand trial with me, I would bewail the fact that I have had to face such appalling vilification and ignominy alone. My thoughts would turn to that other female tyrant, Imelda Marcos, a soul-mate in the "buying everything at other people's expense" school of ethics. And I would wonder why it is that, when the party is finally over, it is we wives who take the rap.

But the "Mean Queen" has not got where she is today by indulging unproductive sentiment. Assuming my appeal fails, I would set about organizing a work schedule for the 752 hours of community service I have been ordered to serve in a Harlem centre for the homeless. Sixty-nine years old and childless after the death of my only son, I would decide for the first time in my life to make the $7-billion Helmsley empire work for the less fortunate in society. I would order a

. . . Leona Helmsley

large consignment of the large fluffy towels, the plump soap bars and the wonderful floral arrangements which feature so prominently in my hotel adverts and have them delivered immediately to the centre. I would offer training and a guaranteed job in the catering trade to all those who are homeless merely for want of work. And I would organize the biggest Christmas party that Harlem's hopeless have ever seen.

I would then resolve to be a model inmate should my prison sentence be upheld. Every morning as I scrubbed the floors, I would regret the times I scattered crumbs in corners in an effort to catch maids out. Every afternoon as I swept the leaves, I would feel remorse for the innumerable gardeners I sacked on the merest of whims. And every meal time, as I ate my tasteless prison food, I would bewail the gourmet dishes I sent back simply to humiliate the chef.

But old habits die hard and obsessive attention to detail will always be my forte. As I did with Harry's hotels, I would have my Danbury federal prison renamed to reflect its now enhanced status: Lovely Leona's Lockup, perhaps, or the Happy Helmsley Hideaway. I would smarten up those dowdy wardens with Bill Blass uniforms and dispel their penitentiary look with a few Van Cleef & Arpels baubles (sales tax paid this time). With such improvements I would ensure, as I always have io my hotels, a 90 per cent occupancy rate in this slammer.

At the end of my very useful sojourn, I would return to the remains of the Helmsley business empire. A chastened woman, I would vow never again to tyrannize helpless employees. And I would accept that, in the end, not only do the poor people pay their taxes. They also wreak their revenge.

CHANEL

POUR MONSIEUR

A LONGER LASTING EAU DE TOILETTE FOR GENTLEMEN

THE MAKERS AND THE TAKINGS OF THE HIT SHOWS

CATS
Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Designer: John Napier
Choreographer: Gillian Lynne
Director: Trevor Nunn
Producer: Cameron Mackintosh/ Really Useful Company
Opened: May 1981
London box-office: £43.7 million
World box-office: £387 million

STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Designer: John Napier
Choreographer: Arlene Phillips
Director: Trevor Nunn
Producer: Really Useful Company
Opened: March 1984
UK box-office: £40 million
World box-office: £80 million

LES MISERABLES
Music: Claude Michel Schonberg
Designer: John Napier
Directors: Trevor Nunn, John Caird
Producer: Cameron Mackintosh
Opened: October 1985
UK box-office: £27.6 million
World box-office: £161 million

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Designer: Maria Bjornson
Choreographer: Gillian Lynna
Director: Hal Prince
Producer: Cameron Mackintosh/ Really Useful Company
Opened: October 1986
UK box-office: £20.3 million
World box-office: £66.5 million

ASPECTS OF LOVE
Composer: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Designer: Marisa Bjornson
Choreographer: Gillian Lynna
Director: Trevor Nunn
Producer: Really Useful Company
Opened: April 1989
UK box-office: £5.6 million

MISS SAIGON
Music: Claude Michel Schonberg
Designer: John Napier
Choreographer: Bob Avian
Director: Nicholas Hytner
Producer: Cameron Mackintosh
Opened: September 1989
UK box-office: £2.7 million

Continued from previous page

have created in this decade was the flotation of Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Company on the Stock Exchange at an initial valuation of £35 million, thanks largely to the success of *Cats* and *Starlight Express*.

What changed in his favour was the accessibility of the American record market, which had tended to ignore European performers until the coming of the Beatles, and the franchising of shows worldwide. This system was largely pioneered by Mackintosh, who put first *Cats* and then *Les Misérables* into innumerable foreign cities the way McDonald's puts in hamburgers, so the product is the same wherever you happen to come across it.

Ever since *Oklahoma!* had hit post-war London like an earthquake "smelling", as the poet Carl Sandburg wrote, "of hay mown up over barn-dance floors", British producers and composers had been in a 30-year state of shocked retreat towards, at best, the Dickensian nostalgia of Lionel Bart or the twin-piano naïvety of shows such as *Salad Days* and *The Boyfriend*.

What changed with Rice and Lloyd Webber was, first of all, the realization that if American audiences were to be drawn to British musicals, then Broadway had to be fought on its own pre-packaged terms. In the Seventies, both *Dreamcoat* and *Superstar* came from already familiar Bible stories, while the selling of *Evita* started when Eva Peron toured Europe and America in the early Fifties.

Webber's first non-Rice hits were not about anything very new either: *Cats* was an arrangement of T. S. Eliot's poems in which there was so little initial faith that the original production team had to take percentages in lieu of salaries before the first night. The result is that most of them now live on several thousand acres of the West Country.

Starlight Express became a massively successful roller-disco, but again does not have a plot which could occupy even the back of a matchbox: that is essentially why such productions have worked so well around the world.

There are no language problems for foreign tourists, no demands of shared heritage or education, no cultural barriers to be stormed. They are events and can be travelled vastly more easily than what I believe to be the greater musicals of the 1980s: Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* and the Bragg-Goodall *Hired Man*.

For Russell and Howard Goodall, creators of these more localized and dramatically tough musicals, there is a discreet uneasiness at the multinational and pre-packaged quality of the marathon hits of the Eighties.

Whereas the shows that once came to us from Broadway, from *Oklahoma!* all the way to *Guys and Dolls* and *Pal Joey*, were still definably about America, there is precious little about modern British life in *Phantom of the Opera* or *Aspects of Love* or *Les Misérables*. In that sense, the hit musical seems to have abdicated any role as a topical commentator.

With the coming of *Cats*, the Broadway/West End power balance went into an abrupt reversal. The arrival on Broadway of Lloyd Webber seemed to coincide with the shutting down of the native American musical.

An appalling combination of spiralling costs, backstage union disputes and the spread of Aids in the dance community has meant that, until this season with the opening of three new shows, there has not been a genuinely Broadway-created world-wide hit since *La Cage Aux Folles* more than five years ago.

Twenty years before, in New York in 1965, I saw *Hello Dolly!* and *Funny Girl* and *Mame* on three consecutive nights, and that was not considered so very special.

What *Cats* proved was that for the first time Britain could assemble 30 show-dancers as talented, versatile and energetic as any team ever mustered by Broadway or Hollywood: hits did not come any more smash than this one, "Now and Forever", as they still say on its posters.

Les Misérables marked a different leap forward. What mattered most about it was the way that, like Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, it set out to redefine the limits of music theatre. Like them it tackled themes of universal, social and domestic despair with an energy and intensity which could be found in the work of no British composer past or present.

Miss Saigon is, if not an improvement, nearly its equal, but it has taken a British RSC-experienced director (Nicholas Hytner) and the Mackintosh management to launch *Saigon*.

It starts next year on Broadway, where it will be battling for the Tonys against Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love*, a score which seems to me to mark not only the growing-up of the English stage musical but the only one which Sondheim might have wished to compose.

It may well be that Nunn's stage management of the spectacular has led to a more hostile climate for such smaller-scale shows of his as the recently opened *The Baker's Wife*. Easy talk of the rebirth of the British musical therefore, needs to be qualified. We are still dealing wit the work of a few key peopl and, as Americans are eager t point out, if Lloyd Webber fe under a bus tomorrow, whe would our revolution be the

In the past few weeks th have been indications fr across the Atlantic that native American musical m at last be reawakening in a c where, unlike London, big lyrical hit can change whole face of Manhattan.

Cab drivers, hotel po and head waiters all look happier in New York morning after the succe opening of a new mu That has never happene here, even during this la magical decade.

● *Sheridan Morley is th of* Spread A Little Hap- *history of the Briti musical (Thames & £12.95). His* Noel & *musical biography, Comedy Theatre, Lon*

A CHILDHOOD: PETER DE SAVARY

'I could not understand at school why Latin and algebra lessons would make me a success in life'

by Ray Connolly

Peter de Savary cannot remember a time when he didn't want to be grown up. Childhood and school were one long frustratioo. "When people say schooldays are the happiest days of your life, that's absolute garbage as far as I'm concerned," he says. "I hated school and would have given anything as a boy to be put into a time machine and catapulted into the future. I just couldn't wait to get started."

So far the future has proved a good friend to him. As an "international entrepreneur" (that is how he describes himself in *Who's Who*) he claims to have no idea of his actual wealth but acknowledges that it is substantial. City watchers estimate a personal fortune of something in the region of £60 million.

Certainly his interests are varied, from Land's End to John o'Groats (his companies own them both), Falmouth and Hayle harbours, a ship-building company in Aberdeen, Glenborrodale Castle and Ardnamurchan Point, not to mention his historic Tudor home, Littlecote in Berkshire, open to 250,000 of the public for six months a year.

Along the way to comtry gentrification there was, and may still be, property in Manhattan, a telephone company in Dallas, a Mayfair casino, banking in the Bahamas, fish processing, diamond polishing in Morocco, avc ıdo pear plantations, a furniture manufacturing company, oil companies, sandwiches, shipping, aircrafts and hotels.

His portfolio of interests is apparently ever growing, ever changing; only his obsession with boats, yachting and his quest for the America's Cup remain absolutely constant.

He is an entrepreneurial genius with one O level in religious knowledge. Born to a middle-class farmer in Essex in 1944, he left Britain for Venezuela at two when his parents were divorced and his mother married an employee of the Shell oil company.

He was, he thinks, a naughty child. Once, left alone at the hairdressers at the age of seven, he instructed the barber to shave his head. Despite the child's abundance of blond curls, the barber obliged.

When his mother returned for him he was, he says, as bald as Yul Brynner. She was distraught, but fate had the last laugh. He's bald for ever oow.

At nine he was shipped back to a prep school in Battle, near Hastings. Holidays were either with his mother (by oow living in Nigeria, then Argentina) who would rent a house, or with his father who had a furniture manufacturing company. He was expected to work when he stayed with his father.

At 13 he scraped into Charterhouse "by the skin of my teeth", where he proceeded to display a great interest in boxing and cross-country running but absolutely oone in the academic life of the school.

He is prepared to concede that he may have had a slight inferiority complex at Charterhouse. "I always felt lonely at school and absolutely hated it. I was insecure and uncomfortable and hated being told what to do all the time. I found it too claustrophobic and the subjects I was asked to study, by and large, boring. I was unable to understand why it would help me to be successful in life by learning Latin and algebra."

Twice he ran away from school. The first time was just a brag but on the second occasion, when he was 15, he went with a girl from his father's factory and camped out on a local golf course for a couple of nights.

The inevitable search parties were dispatched and there were, he says, appeals on the radio for a missing boy. "I think I was just totally frustrated by school. I thought about going abroad but, of course, I hadn't planned what was going to happen to me when I got abroad. I didn't think that far ahead.

"I would never have gone alone. I always needed and still need companionship and I've always liked female companionship."

It was female companionship in the shape of an affair with the housemaster's au pair which, at 15, was to terminate his education at Charterhouse. "They asked me to leave," he admits.

He describes the affair in the same way that he describes a business interest. "I've never had sex with men or boys, I've only ever had sex with women and I found oot at a young age that this was a rather fascinating opportunity that stimulated me. And I was rather keen to develop this opportunity. I was far more keen oo this than going to some boring Latio class or attending some debate in the library on the virtues of Shakespeare.

"I've always tried to be successful in what I willingly undertake and the au pair fitted this category. She was a big, strapping 22-year-old Scandinavian. I wasn't the first and I've no doubt I wasn't the last. And extremely nice it was for a young lad. I didn't ask if it was successful for her. I was just overawed by the whole experience.

"After that I suddenly realized the world was a pretty good place and I found it even more difficult to concentrate on my lessons."

So, armed with the one O level for which he had been entered, he left to join his mother who was now living in Canada.

"I would say my parents were pretty annoyed. They'd made every effort to give me a good education and I think they felt I was an unappreciative little bastard: I wasn't ungrateful, but I found it impossible to take advantage of the situation. Even today I may see opportunities which may be profitable, but I don't engage myself and try to develop those opportunities unless they stimulate me."

Photograph by Nick Rogers

Evidently Canada was stimulating. He enrolled at high school for a time and found the studies more to his liking, but most of his four years were spent working — selling encyclopaedias from door to door, selling cars, driving a delivery truck, working in a glue factory and running his own landscape gardening service.

The gardening service was his first solo business venture. He hired two other boys and carried the tools around in his first car, a blue and green 1951 Pontiac which he bought for $52 because it had been written off after a crash.

After that came the baby-sitting service, when he realized many of his gardening clients had young families. He had found a neat way of doubling his business by using the same customers.

Even in his teens de Savary had his eye out for the bigger deal which would set him up, and he tried to do a property transaction. It foundered when he was unable to raise the money.

Back in England at 20, he went to work for his father in the West Country, running the furniture factory as designer and production manager "making the blasted cabinets". His relationship with his father was competitive, he thinks. Everything was fine so long as he, and his two step-brothers, were doing what their father wanted. "We had a love-hate relationship." When he was 26 he asked for a percentage of the profits of the business. His father refused and he left to begin his life as an entrepreneur mainly, so the legend goes, playing middle-man, buying and selling wheat, cement and oil cargoes along the West African coast. Years later he bought his father's factory and then resold it for a profit.

He cannot, he says, remember any particular moment when he suddenly felt grown up, probably because from an early age he knew he was capable of being independent, that oobody owed him anything and that he could achieve whatever it was he set out to do.

He illustrates this by talking about his great love, sailing. "I remember at the age of nine seeing a sailing dinghy oo the beach at the Solent and telling my mother that I was going to ask the people who owned it if I could take it out. It never occurred to me that I couldn't sail. So I asked the man, and he let me and I taught myself. I've always been that sort of person. It oever occurs to me that I'm not capable, competent or qualified to do something, if I want to do it."

He is a pioneering, competitive sort of man and it is not, perhaps, surprising that the only things he excelled in as a boy were fiercely competitive singular activities like boxing and running, oot team games but sports in which he pitted himself against the rest.

Now with his third wife and four children, his stately home complete with its own chapel (he did get that O level in religious knowledge, remember), his multi-million pound business empire, his 24 vintage cars, and his sailing, he has become the successful man he could not wait to be.

Peter de Savary now and, inset, as a child: "I've always tried to be successful in what I willingly undertake and the au pair fitted this category"

Looking in vain for the party spirit

CRAIG BROWN

Graham Greene once wrote a short story of twin brothers at a party, one of whom dies of terror while hiding during a party game. The story is generally held to be a study in parapsychology of the Catholic idea of hell, but it seems to me a reasonably lifelike description of any ole children's party.

Children's parties are, of course, more obviously full of terror than adult parties. The pressure to beam cheerily through misery and humiliation is never so strong as at a children's party.

You beam as the grown-up hands loom downwards placing a ridiculous paper hat on your head; you beam as you rno around the ever-decreasing circle of chairs, all the while dreading that the music will stop and find you chairless; you beam as you are served jelly of a hideous hue while crackers bang and splutter in your face; you beam while the coojuror forces you to join in some coy chant; you beam as you shuffle through the game of Oranges and Lemons, knowing that in minutes the chopper will come to chop off your head.

My own memories of the horror of children's parties — and I know not a soul who did not share my horror — are superseded only by my memories of the horror of teenage parties.

At one end would stand all the boys, at the other end all the girls. Neither group would speak to the other, and the boys would not even speak to one another because they had their pride to consider.

After a short time — say, three-quarters of an hour — the bolder boys would root out the more forward girls. Dancing would begin, with music sufficiently noisy to preclude conversation for all but the awkward 30-second gaps between records. In the first gap, addresses of schools would be swapped; in the second gap, information about future O levels.

The third gap would always be a problem — I remember one girl asking me if I kept any pets, which I did not, though I had once, thank goodness, had a guinea-pig — and the fourth gap would be just plain awkward. By the fifth gap, most couples would be kissing — or snogging as it was then called — oot with any great enthusiasm, but simply because it made a welcome break from trying to think of things to say.

Parents anxiously popping their heads around the door would recoil in horror at the scenes that met their eyes, always blaming the strength of the fruit cup or the decline in moral standards, but never the poor conversational skills of their offspring.

Now I am an adult, I still enter most parties with a little voice in the back of my mind suggesting that, like it or not, at some time the bell will ring for a round of Musical Chairs. Every party is crammed full of terror and yet one keeps going back. Could it be that, far from being ao obstacle to party-going, it is the promise of terror that ensures our return? I remember Mark Boxer, who was a keen party-goer, once admitting to me that he often walked two or three times around a block before plucking up the courage to walk into a party.

Logan Pearsall Smith once wrote of going to a particular gathering: "I rang the bell as of old; as of old I gazed at the great shining Door and waited. But, alas! that flutter and beat of the wild heart, that delicious Doorstep Terror — it was gone; and with it dear, fantastic, paoic-stricken Youth had rung the bell, flitted around the corner and vanished for ever." Certainly, the parties towards which one feels no sense of apprehensioo tend to be the parties one enjoys the least. (This could well explain Jeffrey Archer's worry at losing the penthouse flat in which he throws his rather gruesome-soundiog shepherd's-pie-and-champagne parties. From photographs, the flat, 14 floors up and with glass walls, looks terrifyingly precarious; what else but the delicious promise of falling from a great height could possibly draw princes, ministers and former football managers to his presence?

This invigorating sense of fear that draws people to parties can be fuelled by things other than vertigo. Even the mildest get-together among friends is fraught with potential hazards: names are forgotten, new animosities forged, *faux pas* committed, cats let out of bags, wine spilt oo floors, jokes not picked up, old anecdotes repeated.

The fear of not having anything to say is swiftly followed by the fear of making a fool of oneself on the dance floor.

Am I being a bore? Have I had too much to drink? How do I look? What did she mean when she said that? Should I have bitteo my tongue? Should I move oo? Why did he move on? Why am I still on the stairs? Oh, Lord, I dido't know *she* was going to be here.

More stilted parties can carry their own hazards. Five years ago, I went to a New Year's Eve party at which a glut of food writers and cooks were present. The conversation swung round to what each person had eaten for Christmas lunch.

"*Ris de veau* with baby shallots," said the first person, a distinguished food critic. Everyone nodded in appreciation. "Roast quails with sage," said the next person, who had her own cookery series on television. "Mmm," said everyone.

By this time, I was in a panic. The third person, a chef, declared he had eaten a boned leg of rabbit with a mustard vinaigrette and was warmly applauded, leaving only me to answer the question. "I had turkey," I said. Everyone looked downcast, and the party broke up shortly after.

Those who have scanned the "Parties of the Decade" feature in *Harpers and Queen* magazioe may have noticed the curious rule whereby the more practised the partygoers, the more off-putting the parties they appear to demand.

Like manic riders oo ghost-trains, they have no sooner assuaged one horror than they demand new and creepier ones. These the society hostesses are forced to provide io the form of more grotesque locations, more off-putting guests, more garish decoratioos, more ludicrous "themes", more strained topics of conversation.

It can surely be oo coincidence that the best part of a page io Lady Elizabeth Ansoo's very short *Party Planners Book* (1986) is given over to a sectioo oo "Suicides at Parties". "People who stage suicide attempts hysterically or as a means of emotional blackmail will, unhappily, often choose a party for the gesture," she writes.

If she is planniog a second volume, I would suggest a collaboration with Graham Greene. Between the two of them, I feel sure they could plan a party that was truly awful and to which everyone just *had* to go.

Speak French Spanish German

In 3½ weeks — We Guarantee it!

HOLIDAYS... so much more enjoyable when you speak the language.

BUSINESS... your competitive edge in the single European market.

This totally new method makes language learning genuinely enjoyable ...and "7 times faster!"

Don't worry if you've tried to learn a language before with little success. Influential educationalists now agree: *the teaching method was at fault, not you!*

New research on how memory is actually created has resulted in a unique and *BETTER METHOD* of learning a language. It's justifiably called ACCELERATED LEARNING.

Just complete the coupon below, and we will send you our Information Pack which describes the four secrets of Accelerated Learning's success — Relaxation — Whole Brain Learning — Subconscious and Conscious Learning — the Ideal Learning Format.

Try it FREE for 10 days

Please send me details of Accelerated Learning and how I can apply for my 10 day FREE TRIAL.
We will also send you details of how you qualify for a FREE personal stereo cassette player, worth £11.95, if you order within 7 days of receiving our brochure.

Free Cassette Player

I am interested in:

FRENCH ☐ SPANISH ☐ GERMAN ☐

PLEASE PRINT

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Not applicable overseas

Cut out coupon and send to:
Accelerated Learning Systems Ltd,
FREEPOST Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4BR.
NO STAMP NEEDED!
Or, if you prefer, you can telephone us on:
0296 631177

ACCELERATED LEARNING

It works!

TT 16/12/

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

As the rest of Europe prepares to toast the festive season, Sweden's dreaming of a white, alcohol-free Christmas, **Christopher Mosey reports**

Social evils of no drink

STOCKHOLM 16 DEC 1989 SWEDEN

She was around 30 years old and obviously Swedish: very blonde, attractive and extremely drunk. I gave her no encouragement but she leant over my table in one of Stockholm's better restaurants and said: "I have discovered the meaning of life." Having frequently wondered what on earth it might be, I asked her to explain. "It's that we are all afraid of death," she said portentously, and staggered on her way.

A little later on, one of a number of men sitting silently alone at the bar drinking strong beer suddenly hurled his glass across the room. It shattered against a mirror. As he was ejected by two burly waiters, the man, still silent, pulled the cloths from the tables lining his route, sending glasses, plates and cutlery crashing to the floor.

Both incidents, though doubtless minor compared with the antics of Britain's lager louts, nevertheless say a lot about the way of life here.

About the first incident there is that naïve, well-meant though silly sincerity that characterizes so many of Stockholm's inhabitants in all walks of life. Sometimes it can be charming, more often it's a pain.

About the second there is a provincial loutishness shocking to foreign visitors familiar with smooth-running Volvo and Saab cars and Electrolux household appliances, who arrive here expecting to find a nation of sophisticated technocrats.

On a more simplistic level, of course, both incidents reflect the pathetic inability of many Swedes to cope with alcohol in a social context. The majority of people go to even the smartest restaurants (there are few bars as such) with the idea of getting *drunk*, as opposed to having a drink and socializing.

There is, quite simply, no tradition in Sweden for social drinking the way it exists in Britain or on the European mainland. The Danes, more European than Scandinavian, derisively tell travellers heading north from Copenhagen: "Asia starts at Malmö."

It should not be implied that *all* Swedes are this way inclined. Those that have lived abroad or travelled extensively display more *savoir-faire*. However, old habits die hard. In the last century, when Sweden was a poor, backward agricultural country, alcohol dimmed the peasant population's hunger pains and kept out the winter cold. Politicians, both those of the ruling Social Democratic party and from the centre-right opposition parties, will tell you that it also dulled political awareness.

Be that as it may, alcohol is traditionally seen as an absolute social evil and its sale strictly controlled by a state monopoly, with prices artificially inflated by high taxation to discourage consumption.

In restaurants during this festive season, pity the poor Swede who has to pay up to £4 for a half-litre of singularly tasteless strong beer, £6.60 for six centilitres of whisky, and anything from £20-£60 for a reasonable table wine. In the state liquor stores, or *Systembolaget*, products are cheaper: a bottle of whisky costs around £20.

The *Systembolaget* is an unorthodox commercial enterprise that seeks to discourage people from buying its wares. Window displays currently promote alcohol-free Christmas drinks, along with advice as to how enjoyable it can be to have a *white* Christmas in the sense that it should be teetotal.

STOCKHOLM 16 DEC 1989 SWEDEN

There was once even a suggestion by Gabriel Romanus, the former Liberal politician who is *Systembolaget*'s managing director, that the stores would employ videos which would include clips of people in the last stages of chronic alcoholism as a warning to clients.

As it is, the stores are hardly inviting, staffed by unsmiling people in green uniforms who take orders grudgingly and, by recent decision, refuse to put the product they so unwillingly sell into the plastic bags provided for its carriage.

These bags are instantly recognizable and, as a result, a populace already plagued by guilt usually disguises visits to the *Systembolaget* by hiding its purchases in other carrier bags. Still, if on your way home your bottles should happen to clink together, people will stare accusingly.

For all its international reputation for liberality, the truth is that Sweden (at least when it comes to The Alcohol Question, as it is known here) is a country in the thrall of a very narrow puritan élite forcing its standards on the rest of the population, famed as the most docile in Europe. Georges Pompidou once described them as "*un peuple merveilleux à gouverner*".

ROBIN JACQUES

The small clique of MPs which has forced through most of the anti-liquor legislation hails mostly from the agrarian-based Centre and Liberal parties. The vast mass of the population, on the evidence of what one hears and reads, would welcome a change from what it describes as *Grönköping*, or Little Puddleton, attitudes.

At this time of the year in Stockholm, when the temperature hovers around freezing point and it is dark by 4pm, there is no relief to be found by nipping into a cosy bar for a quick pint on the way home. For a start you can't afford it, secondly there are no *cosy* bars.

A doorman at one of the uninviting institutions that serves alcoholic beverages will eye you up and down, then, should he decide that you can be admitted, takes your coat and briefcase (it could contain a bottle) and charges you a minimum of 50p for the privilege.

Upon entry you are usually greeted by the sight of diners at tables and men seated at the bar, morosely tipping down strong beer in silent dedication. You might get a grudging *hej!* (hello) as you join them, but it will be said in such a manner as to discourage any further conversation until the goal of drunkenness has been achieved.

Someone once likened the Swedish personality to a bottle of tomato sauce. You shake and shake and shake and nothing happens, then it all comes out in a great sloppy mess. So, by the fifth or sixth glass, you could be engaged in slurred conversation of both crushing banality and emotional excess.

If it is discovered that you are British, for example, you may be offered everything from instant solutions to the problem of Northern Ireland to a discourse on the delights of a language course enjoyed by your circumlocutor in Brighton or Eastbourne, culminating perhaps in a lecture on the horrors of Life Itself. During one of the latter, I once experienced the dubious pleasure of seeing a Swede burst into tears.

The results of attempts to deal with The Alcohol Question are generally counter-productive. Because it costs less to buy from the *Systembolaget*, people tend to drink at home, where, deprived of any sort of social controls, they actually consume more . . . and probably shed more tears.

Home brewing is an ever-increasing problem, with the authorities anxiously monitoring sales of sugar and yeast, although less so than in neighbouring Norway. In Sweden an organization is now suggesting that, to fight alcoholism, prices be pushed still higher, the restaurants' minimum age requirement be raised from 18 to 20, and all duty-free sales banned.

The nanny state has long been a fact of life in Sweden. Less charitable souls call it the Killjoy Society. "What we could do with in Sweden is some kind of *glasnost* when it comes to social restrictions," says Ake W. Bergh, a former merchant seaman turned novelist. "The attitudes of these do-gooders are dictatorial. What we have is the imposition of minority thinking on the majority of the population."

Cecilia Steen-Johnsson, a journalist writing for *Dagens Nyheter*, the principal daily newspaper, recently drew an anguished comparison between Stockholm's stilted nightlife and that of Copenhagen.

She berated her rulers for imposing "pub tyranny" and concluded: "We will never have a pub culture worth the name if we don't start treating people as people and not as presumptive alcoholics."

Such rebellion usually leads to a vociferous and well-orchestrated chorus of complaint from the teetotal movement, as was the case recently when Stig Malm, head of the powerful *Landsorganisation* trade union movement for blue collar workers, suggested that wine be sold in ordinary supermarkets. The evening newspaper, *Aftonbladet*, led its front page with the story.

STOCKHOLM 16 DEC 1989 SWEDEN

There was similar outrage when Dr Stefan Zetterburg, a general practitioner, suggested that the mental health of the Swedish people was being jeopardized by the fact that they were not encouraged to drink socially.

Loneliness, he claimed, was a national disease, leading to that traditional solution: suicide. Calling for the municipalities to subsidize cheap pubs, he advised his fellow countrymen: "Look at it as a form of precautionary health care. In Britain and Germany where, for example, people can afford to go out to a pub and have a drink, eat some food, and, above all, mix spontaneously with other human beings, you don't get this problem."

That is, of course, one way of looking at it. The other, however, is to take the traditional Swedish attitude, "*Vi är bäst i världen*" (we are the best in the world), which assumes that, despite the manifest evidence to the contrary, the country has achieved a higher form of civilization than other nations. This, for example, was an opinion often expressed by former Prime Minister Olaf Palme, before he was assassinated on a street in central Stockholm three years ago.

Such traditionalists recoil in horror at the thought of their country one day joining the European Community, when they might be forced to cut back on the restrictions governing the lives of their fellow citizens and even *reduce* taxes on alcohol.

Foreigners living here would, however, be delighted if something approaching a British pub, French café or German *bierkeller* culture were to implant itself on these dismal shores.

MUSEUMS

EXHIBITIONS

PEWTER 1200-1700: Five centuries of the pewterer's craft ranging from tiny pewter toys to the finest domestic wares. Three recreated interiors convey the atmosphere of a 17th-century pewterer's shop, workshop, and dining room. Practical demonstration of pewter manufacture on Thursday at 1.10pm. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (01-600 3699). Tues-Sat 10am-6pm. Sun 2-6pm. Free.

SHIP MODELS: The addition of 600 miniature ship models made by R. Farnworth has helped to bring about the setting up of a new permanent gallery, the World of Models Exhibition. Passenger liners, cargo vessels, warships, ferries and tugs are represented in cardboard with great accuracy, at a scale of 1:1200. Merseyside Maritime Museum, Pier Head, Liverpool (051-709 1551). Open daily 10.30am-5.30pm. Admission £1.50, 75p concessions.

Jenny Gilbert

Trip to history

● The following *Times* readers are the winners of the Past Worlds competitions. They each win an all-expenses paid holiday for two to one of the regions covered by *The Times Atlas of Ancient Civilizations*.

Week 1: Damascus and Palmyra
Winner: Mrs P. Wilkes, Bideton, Devon
Answers:
1 Shub-Ad
2 Ashurbanipal
3 Achaemenid/Persian
4 Uruk
5 Persepolis
6 3,789 years

Week 2: The Upper Nile and Egypt
Winner: Miss E. Stone, Oxford
Answers:
1 Akhet
2 2,000 years
3 Beer
4 Upper and Lower Egypt
5 Granite portcullises
6 Canopic jars

Week 3: Greece
Winner: Mr M. Stephenson, Stroud, Gloucestershire
Answers:
1 Athens
2 Zeus and Poseidon

Answers:
1 Silkworm
2 Musk melon
3 From 722 to 481 BC
4 Qin
5 Ancestors of the Monarch
6 By public examinations

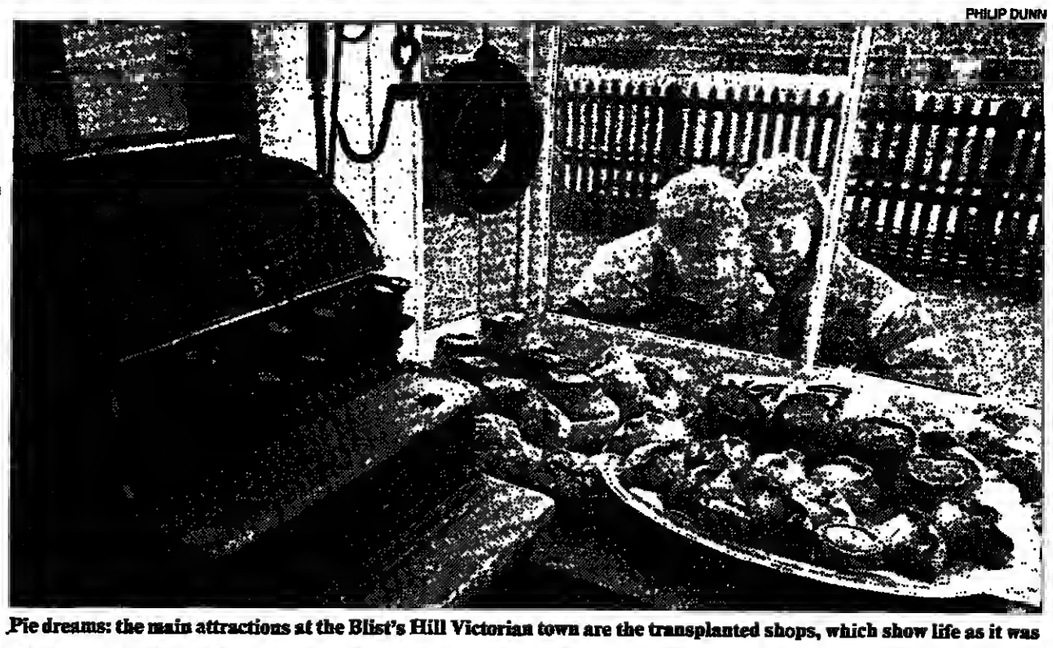
Week 5: Rome
Winner: Mr J. Austin, Orpington, Kent
Answers:
1 Temple of Hercules Victor
2 Tiberius
3 Tarquin the Proud (Tarquinius Superbus)
4 Marcus Aurelius
5 King Attalus (III) of Pergamum.
6 1843 years: from 390 BC to AD 1453

Week 6: South Asia
Winner: Mrs H. E. Heather, Perth, Scotland
Answers:
1 Asoka
2 The Huns
3 Arabic numerals
4 Buddhists
5 Umbrellas
6 Arikamedu

Week 7: The Americas
Winner: Mr M. J. Webber, Reading, Berkshire
Answers:
1 A jaguar
2 Behind you
3 394.52 years
4 Creation

Simon Tait visits Ironbridge, this year's winner of *The Times*/Shell Museum of the Year award for innovation

Reaping the rewards of industry



PHILIP DUNN

Pie dreams: the main attractions at the Blist's Hill Victorian town are the transplanted shops, which show life as it was

In 1836 the writer and traveller Charles Hulbert described Ironbridge as "the most extraordinary district in the world". Coalbrookdale was already a nest of mines and foundries in 1708, when Abraham Darby arrived and rented a kiln. But it was Darby who first smelted iron there, giving a good marker for the history books for the start of the Industrial Revolution. Seventy years later his grandson built the world's first iron bridge, over the Severn, and Ironbridge continued to develop.

The sight that Hulbert later found so romantic was of the world's first industrial estate, of foundries, mines, china factories, horse-drawn railways, canals, and a river hustling with barges and cargo boats.

A community of museums has sprung up in Ironbridge, beginning 30 years ago when the old furnace was uncovered and a small display put up next to it.

Ironbridge Gorge Museum's latest accolade is the £20,000 *Times*-Shell Museum of the Year award for innovation. It won the Museum of the Year award in 1977 and was the first European Museum of the Year 12 months later. In 1987 Unesco labelled it "of exceptional and universal value", placing it alongside the Taj Mahal and the Egyptian Pyramids, and it became a World Heritage Site.

Ironbridge is actually six museums, including Ironbridge itself, the Jackfield Tile Museum, Coalbrookdale, built around Darby's furnace and including the famous

MUSEUMS YEAR 1989 THE TIMES

candles, drink in the pub, watch wrought iron being made, go to the cobbler's, the builder's, the plasterer's, the sweet shop, the saw mill, the doctor's surgery, the locksmith's, visit the mine, call on the squatters in their cottage and go to the bank for Victorian money to spend in all these places.

But the museum had to struggle to achieve its current success, despite the active patronage of the Prince of Wales. "I can't think of any other museum that has to raise 95 per cent of its revenue from ticket sales, and succeeds," says its director, Stuart Smith. It raises £1 million a year from the box-office, and another million from fund-raising, with comparatively little so far coming from sponsorship.

It has been criticized for being élitist — "I'm afraid most of our visitors tend to be the Volvo-driving sort," Smith says — and it has been accused of being gimmicky, pandering to the visitor at the expense of the curator, marketing a dream in spite of the reality.

A new development phase elopment plan that Ironbridge is about to launch is likely to fuel the current "theme park Britain" argument. Sponsors are to be sought, and in the new 10-year prospectus Blist's Hill will get the additions of a Victorian school, a photographer's studio, a grocer's, a post office, more houses, and a park complete with bandstand and tea room; some of *The Times*-Shell sponsorship money will be used to employ "character guides" in the shape of, for instance, a policeman and an organ-grinder.

There will also be an hotel, probably a replica red-brick one rather than a transplant like the other buildings, since it will have to meet the demands of 20th-century guests.

There will be a new purpose-built visitors' centre, with a 2,000 sq ft shop and a café, plus a restaurant and an interpretation centre in a converted warehouse. At Coalbrookdale there is to be a new conference centre with sleeping accommodation, another restaurant and train in terms of the visitor experience." Last year 404,000 had that experience, compared with 276,000 in 1985, and the frequent visitor surveys that independent museums have to carry out show a 96 per cent satisfaction rate.

The estate which polluted the atmosphere for a century and a half before the technology of the 1870s overtook it, is now itself threatened by pollution from car fumes, so the Volvos are to be kept out. £1 million is being spent to provide 1,000 extra car spaces around the periphery of the Gorge; £200,000 will reinstate a steam railway, and provide a light railway and a footbridge across the Severn to help get people around the site without their own transport.

But most important, particularly for the scholars, will be another, seventh museum. Costing £2 million, it will tackle the tentacles of industrialization — its effects on poetry, paintings, literature, politics, social demography, medicine and health care. The idea is an adaptation of an interactive video game, Institute, in partnership with Birmingham University, currently has 61 postgraduates studying for diplomas in industrial archaeology and heritage management, and Smith hopes to start museum training as well.

Last week the new heritage minister, Lord Hesketh, revealed that after the demise next April of the Telford Development Corporation, which owns the buildings and lets them to the museum, five ancient monuments and 15 listed buildings on the site would come to the museum trust. In addition, he revealed that they would be handed over in renovated state over the next three years; a present, not only of the heritage, but of about £6 million of the corporation's money.

But this recognition of the national importance of this museum highlights an anomaly: the package includes the Elton Collection, but because independent museums do not handle public money they are not, in Treasury terms, "an-

... they're the perfect last minute gift

Give *National* GARDEN GIFT TOKENS and let *them* select their present from the huge range of items sold at any of the 1,600 HTA-member garden centres, shops and nurseries *across the UK* — or from Interflora florists.

Ask for *National* GARDEN GIFT TOKENS at the same 1,600 outlets *nationwide* — in a choice of values. Safe to post *and redeemable throughout the country*, they're the great late Christmas gift that gardeners and plant lovers prefer.

National GARDEN GIFT

THE TIMES COOK

Game for a cobbler

A rich, warming stew topped with scones is a satisfying dish that can rise to any occasion, Frances Bissell writes

Cobblers. What a good, satisfying ring that word has. And a marvellously satisfying smell and appearance when you put one on the table. This dish has formed the centrepiece of our entertaining this winter — at a casual supper when we invited neighbours in on the spur of the moment to taste the Beaujolais Nouveau, and a joint wedding anniversary dinner with some friends which provided us with the perfect excuse to open a bottle of 1964 Château Latour. Both evenings were enhanced by this steaming, beefy, gamey stew, topped with featherlight rounds of scone dough baked to a floury golden-brown. But you could just as easily serve it with beer or cider, mulled wine or spiced ale.

The etymology of "cobbler" in this cootext is fairly cloudy. In the United States, where cobbler is both a cooling mixed drink and a deep-dish fruit pie with a "biscuit" or scone topping, it is thought to have originated as something which was quickly "cobbled together". In medieval Britain some recipes called for lining a dish with a thick layer of dough. The cobbler we know today is said to be a refinement on that method. Essentially it is a meat stew topped with scone dough instead of a piecrust. It appeals to me because there are so many variations. The scooc dough can be flavoured with herbs and spices or cheese, and can be coloured with saffron or tomato paste, or with blue or yellow cornmeal. The meats can be single or mixed, game or oot. The experiment I originally had in mind was to cook venison in Guinness, hut I could find no venisoo and remembered that I have sometimes been disappointed in the flavour and texture of some farmed venison. The combination of wood pigeoo and beef was a happy one. Unless you cook wood pigeon rare and run the attendant risks, the only way of getting it really tender is to cook it very slowly and for a long time. A lean meat, it is best with a beef cut that has plenty of connective tissue and some internal marbling. Shin, blade and chuck are the best cuts.

The meat can be cooked with the vegetables the day before required, and then reheated and the scone topping added. Rather than serve vegetables with it, I think a crisp salad served afterwards is better. Our celebration meal started with marinated salmon and scallops, a variation on a favourite theme, easy to prepare in advance, and if you give your fishmonger notice you may get the fish sliced for you.

The two sweet recipes are very versatile. Serve the biscuits with fruit in brandy or liqueur wine for an easy pudding; make extra to wrap as last-minute gifts, or suspend them from coloured ribbons and use as Christmas tree decorations. The truffles are almost as versatile, for gifts or after dinner sweets.

Marinated salmon and scallops
(serves 6)

- 1lb/455g thinly sliced fresh salmon from the fillet
- 9 or 12 scallops, white part only
- 2 or 3 firm ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1 shallot, peeled and finely chopped
- 2-3tsp grain mustard
- 5tbsp hazelnut oil or extra virgin olive oil
- ¼tsp salt
- ¼tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1tsp freshly squeezed lime or lemon juice

Arrange the salmon on individual serving plates, leaving a space in the middle to arrange the slices of raw scallop, in overlapping circles. Each scallop can be sliced horizontally into two or three, depending on thickness. Mix the tomatoes and shallots, and spoon a small heap onto the centre of each plate. Mix the rest of the ingredients, and brush liberally over the fish. Cover each plate with clingfilm and refrigerate until required. This can be prepared 2 to 3 hours in advance.

Serve with wedges of lemon or lime and hot toast, warm bread or pumpernickel.

Beef and pigeon cobbler
(serves 6 to 8)

- 2 or 3 wood pigeons
- 2½lb/1.1kg chuck or blade steak
- 1oz/30g seasoned flour
- 2tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium onion
- 1 carrot
- 2 celery stalks
- small bottle (330ml) Guinness
- freshly ground black pepper
- pinch of powdered mace
- sprig of thyme
- 1pt/570ml beef or game stock
- ½lb/230g button or cup mushrooms
- salt

Scone topping

- ½lb/230g plain flour
- 4tsp baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 1tsp dried rubbed thyme
- 2oz/60g butter
- plain yoghurt or buttermilk to mix

Remove the breasts from the pigeons, and cut each into 3 or 4 thumb-size pieces. Chop the carcasses, brown them in a heavy saucepan, pour on enough water to cover, and simmer gently to make a stock. Trim any external fat and gristle from the meat and cut into 1in/2.5cm chunks. Toss the meat in the seasoned flour, and brown it, a batch at a time, in the olive oil. Transfer the meat to a casserole. Peel and slice the vegetables, put the carrot and celery with the meat, and fry the onion until just brown. Pour on the Guinness and deglaze the pan, allowing the liquid to reduce somewhat. Add pepper, mace and thyme to the casserole and pour on the boiling Guinness and onion. Cover and simmer or cook in the bottom half of a low oven for 2½ to 3 hours. Top up with stock occasionally.

Make the scone topping: sift the dry ingredients together. Cut in the butter and then ruh io lightly. Mix in enough liquid to form a soft dough. Knead slightly on a floured work-top, and then roll out to about ¾in/2cm thick. Cut into 2in/5cm rounds with a pastry cutter.

Transfer the stew to another ovenproof dish, leaving the liquid behind. Wipe the mushrooms and halve them or leave whole depending on size. Put in the casserole with the cooking liquid. Bring to the boil, reduce until yoo have a rich textured sauce, plenty to keep the meat moist — about half a pint or so should be sufficient. Pour half of it over the meat. Arrange the scones on top around the edge of the dish, slightly overlapping, and bake in the top half of the oven, preheated to 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and pour the rest of the hot gravy in the middle. Serve steaming hot.

Crisp wine biscuits
(makes about 10)

- 1lb/455g plain flour
- 5oz/140g caster sugar
- 1tsp salt
- 1tbsp baking powder
- 8floz/230ml olive oil
- 8floz/230ml muscat wine, port, sherry or full bodied dry red table wine
- 3-4oz/85-110g flour for kneading and rolling out

Sift the dry ingredients into a bowl. Make a hollow in the centre, and pour in the oil and wine. Mix thoroughly and knead lightly on a floured work surface until smooth. Break off a walnut-sized piece of dough, and roll into a rope about 4in/10cm long. Pinch the ends together to form a ring, and arrange on a greased, floured baking sheet. Cootinue with the rest of the dough. Bake in the top half of pre-heated oven, 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4 for 20 minutes, and then for a further 15 to 20 minutes towards the bottom of the oven at 150°C/300°F, gas mark 2. Remove the biscuits and allow to cool on a wire rack. When completely cold, store in an airtight container. A food processor makes short work of this recipe; first mix the dry ingredients and then add the liquid. It makes a rather soft, pasty dough. And if you use red wine, the dough turns an alarming and unappetizing blue/grey. This changes oo baking to a warm brown. A variation on this recipe is to replace the wine with a water and Pernod or Pastis mixture, brushing the biscuit with a sugar and water glaze after the first baking and sprinkling on fennel or anise seeds. If yoo prefer not to bake with olive oil, you can use melted hutter.

Chocolate rum truffles
(makes 2-3 dozen)

- 1lb/455g plain chocolate
- 6floz/170ml double cream
- ⅙pt/70ml rum
- 1oz/30g cocoa powder *or*
- 1oz/30g sifted icing sugar *or*
- 6oz/170g melted plain chocolate

Grate or chop the chocolate. Put the cream in a saucepan, and bring it just to the boil; that is, let it get foaming at the edges, but not to a full, rolling boil. Remove from the heat and add the chocolate, stirring until it has melted. Stir in the rum when the cream and chocolate are well amalgamated. Chill for 2 to 3 hours until firm. Scoop small pieces of mixture off with a teaspoon, and roll quickly and lightly into a ball, preferably on a marble slab. Roll in cocoa powder or icing sugar, or dip in the melted chocolate, letting any excess chocolate fall back. Cootinue with the rest of the chocolate mixture. Place the truffles in individual paper cases, and store carefully until required, separating each layer with foil or film. They will keep for seven to 10 days in the refrigerator.

There are several small variations which will allow you to produce a whole array of chocolate truffles without too much trouble. Before you refrigerate the mixture, divide into three. Refrigerate one batch as I have described. Mix finely chopped (but not ground) almoods into another batch, and refrigerate until firm. When you shape the truffles, make some into log shapes and mark them with a fork before rolling them in icing sugar. A further variation is to divide the mixture before adding the spirit, and then flavour each batch with a different liqueur or spirit.

If, by chance, you do have prunes soaking in wine, the chocolate mixture can be rolled and used to fill them in place of the stones to make a very rich and excellent sweetmeat.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1989

DIANA LEADBETTER

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Art of organization

Rather than treat Christmas Day as a military campaign (you know the sort of thing, 06.00 light oven, 06.30 juggle 20lb turkey into undersize oven, 06.35 retrieve turkey from kitchen floor, and so on), I thought I would offer a few ideas that save me from last-minute panics when I can't find the cinnamon sticks for the mulled wine. I have included some short cuts and time-savers that no one will notice, but which allow a much more relaxing time for the cook who is not backed up by a "*brigade de cuisine*".

● Put away, in the garage, under the bed, in the spare room, all the equipment you know you will oot use — the wok, the fish kettle, the pasta maker and the other things that take up too much room. On the other hand, remember where they are; otherwise chaos will ensue if someone decides they want stir-fried Brussels sprouts with the turkey. Clear space in the refrigerator and freezer. Get rid of anything unidentifiable, thco anything that you are bored with looking at each time you open the fridge door. Pot that which can be potted, a piece of ham, cold roast beef or game. Deal similarly with heel-ends of cheese not fit for another appearance on the cheese board but that can be grated on to pasta or soups or, if soft, can be potted with hutter, port and powdered mace. While making those things, make a batch of anchovy butter for hot toast fingers to serve with aperitifs. Make sure there is room for extra ice, which can either be made or delivered in time for Christmas. Make plenty of room for the hird or joint so it can be properly covered and kept out of cootact with everything.

● **Shopping check-list**
Buy more than you think you can possibly use of the following: foil (is it wide enough?) which is also useful for emergency wrapping paper, lace paper doilies, bin liners, plastic bags, clingfilm, paper towels (as well as mopping up spills, use them to hlot up excess grease on the surface of stocks and sauces) and J-Cloths. A scalded J-Cloth will do just as well as muslin for straining stocks, sauces, jellies and for making "*bouquets garnis*" and for huttering to lay over the turkey. If you make a lot of mulled wine, cut a J-Cloth into squares and in each square tie a piece of cinnamon, a few cloves, some allspice, a piece of mace and some thinly pared orange zest, and store the bundles in a jar.

● **Time-savers**
Salads: Lettuces, raddichio, endives, fennel and celery can be trimmed and washed, hut leave the roots on and put everything, roots down, in a large bowl of water, to which you add some ice cubes from time to time. Keep this in a cool place, not in a warm kitchen, and they will stay fresh for a day or two. They will lose some vitamins, but if you eat the orange and apple in your Christmas stocking you should be all right.

Cucumber: Peel, halve, de-seed and slice thinly. Salt and drain for several hours, then rinse and squeeze dry in kitchen paper. Keep covered in the refrigerator for two to three days, then dress with oil and lemon juice or yoghurt and garlic for a simple, crisp salad. You will need three cucumbers to feed four people.

Vegetables: Again, loss of vitamins is the price you have to pay for convenience. Most vegetables can be washed, trimmed, sliced and blanched and put in airtight boxes in the refrigerator a few hours before they are required. After blanching, refresh them in a bowl of ice-cold water and drain. To cook them, drop into plenty of boiling water or fry or stir-fry.

● **Planning the main Christmas meals**
It is not a good idea to serve all hot courses unless you have plenty of kitchen help to share the tasks. A cold first course, followed by the hot main course, vegetables or salad, then cheese and finally one cold and one hot pudding is a workable format for the single-handed cook.

Avoid plating every course, especially hot ones. Cold first courses can be plated, covered with clingfilm and refrigerated; so can cold puddings of the fruit or chocolate terrine variety.

Most kinds of soups, hot or cold, can be made the day before and the garnishes, such as cream, sherry, *croûtons* or snipped herbs added at the last moment.

A tub of double cream or yoghurt, mixed with half that quantity of good jam, jelly or marmalade, can be frozen to make a very acceptable ice-cream. Remember to stir it from time to time during freezing. Above all, remember to leave enough time for ice-cream to ripen off (ie, thaw a little) before serving. Good vanilla ice-cream can be used as a base for "home-made" ice-creams of honey, chestnut purée, crumbled Christmas cake and rum-soaked raisins.

● **Freezer check-list**
All these are worth stockpiling for making extra mince pies, savoury pastries and sandwiches: puff pastry, filo pastry, pitta bread and Indian flat breads.

● **Table decoration**
Combine this with the sweet course by decorating pine branches or a silver painted branch with decorative edibles. Crisp wine biscuits, wrapped chocolate truffles, small squares of Christmas cake in Cellophane, kumquats and dates are just a few of the things you can use.

F.B.

CAMPUS

Do you feel useless? Well, actually, you are useless

Tom Holland describes the horror of survival in the Real World

For many students, this is a time of much wailing and gnashing of teeth. Third-years sense themselves slipping and sliding towards the dark abyss of a Future in the Real World, and as every day of comfortable university life passes, this future seems ever more frightening. Now is the time of reckoning. Those who have done wisely, and studied law, or land ecooomy, or ballistics and nuclear physics, can afford to smile, confident that a grateful society will reimburse them for the useful skills they have acquired. But for the more foolish, whose sole qualification for getting to grips with the late-20th century is an incomplete knowledge of early Byzantine agrarian reforms, the Real World can seem a demoralizing place.

In fact, the uselessness of anyone who did not study law is a favourite theme for employers. The process begins at the Careers Service. You walk confidently in, tell the receptionist about your degree in High Norse, and wait to be given a job in advertising. Two minutes later, when the receptiooist has stopped laughing, you will be given a booklet entitled "Don't Worry — Your Degree Isn't *Completely* Useless", and asked to return when you can programme computers, or speak fluent Japanese. Likewise, should you actually make it to an interview, at least half the time will be spent listening to a Brylcreemed man in braces talking about faxes and the Dow Jones, and making sure you realize how irrelevant you are. "Are you with us?" he'll ask. "Yeah!" you'll reply hopefully. "Are you going to kick backsides?" "Yeah!" "Are you going to forget everything you ever knew about Marxist interpretations of the Victorian novel?" "Yeah, yeah! Anything you say!" By this time you're desperate, down on your knees, praying he won't realize how completely useless everything you've studied is. But he does. "You see this bin," he says. "It's empty — like you. You don't know anything. But by the time we've finished with you, you'll be a valuable commodity, ready to make your way." "Yeah!"

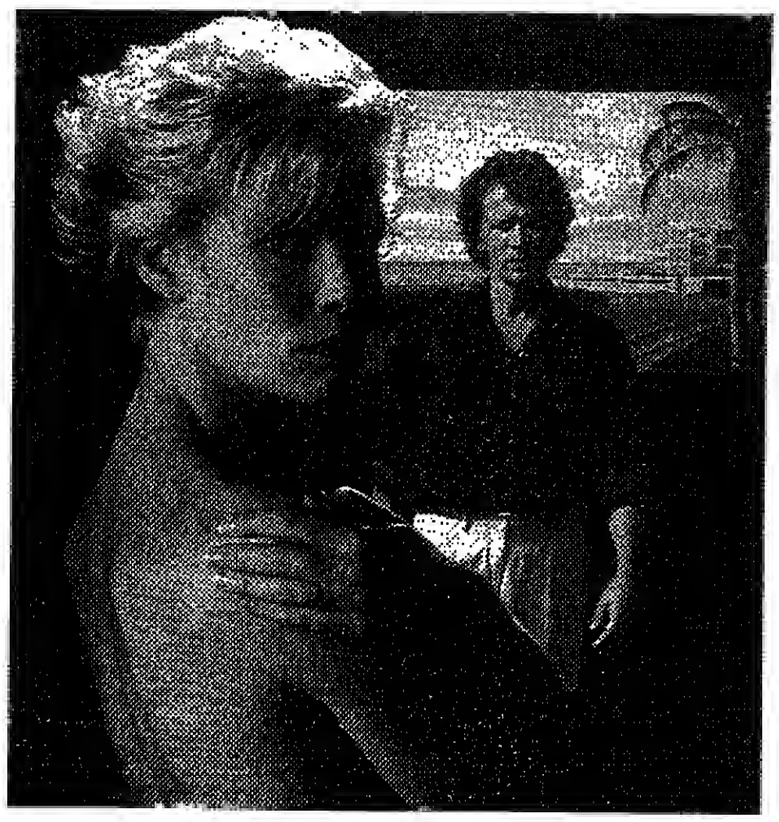
For most students interviews are unsettling because they are a first glimpse of this strange new world. But perhaps the single most terrifying aspect of job hunting is the degree of competition it implies, the seemingly endless process of application and rejection, the humiliations at the hands of interviewers and peers, the relentless sense of effort and expectation.

Christmas holidays do little to relieve the pressure; if anything, they intensify it. You are surrounded by people who do real jobs and who await with glee your own entry into a world of paying taxes and getting up at 6.30am. Parents are a particularly troublesome example of this breed. Then, as the job search gets under way, friends start to gloat. Nothing quite ruins your Christmas as much as a 'phone call from a chum telling yoo he's landed the job with Saatchis that yoo had wanted and didn't get. The only thing you can do is return to university, buy an ethnic cap, and pretend yoo're oot into Greed.

In the Real World, employers will expect ambition to be directed towards one subject; at university, goals lie everywhere, determined by endlessly shifting standards, and ensuring that no matter what you do, or how you behave, someone somewhere will be despising you. Ambition and competition govern everything; work, sport, sex, politics, drama, journalism, dancing, drinking, not drinking, holidays, hats, everything. Even doing nothing is evaluated rigorously. There is, after all, doing nothing, and doing nothing. If you are going to do oothing in style, you might as well wear black and spend all day smoking in bed; this will get you more points than, say, sitting in your room wearing tank tops. Indeed, I had a friend who was so good at doing nothing that she became famous for it; people would come and study her, to see how it was done, until, sadly, she ruined the effect by getting a starred First.

In fact, job-hunting offers the discerning eye the prospect of many such upsets. What can be more reassuring than hearing that the hitherto god-like figure of the union president is becoming an accountant? Or asking the head of the drama society how her BBC application is getting along? Milk rounds needn't be all bad; they can be a tremendous spectator sport, and they have a hideousness that can make even the jobs themselves seem vaguely attractive. Above all, they offer a gateway to a bright new world, where you can be as dull as you like and no one will mind, since at last, everyone else will have accepted that they're equally dull. Ah, the Real World!

● *Tom Holland is a student at Brasenose College, Oxford.*



In the heat of passion lies the coldest desire.

KELLY McGILLIS PETER WELLER

CAT CHA$ER (18)

Based on ELMORE LEONARD's best seller

A DAVIS/PANZER Production Starring CHARLES DURNING · FREDERIC FORREST · TOMAS MILIAN · JUAN FERNANDEZ
Director of photography ANTHONY RICHMOND, B.S.C. Editor ANTHONY REDMAN Production Designer DAN LEIGH
Based on the novel by Elmore Leonard Screenplay by JAMES BORRELLI and ELMORE LEONARD Associate Producer MARI PROVENZANO
Executive Producers GUY COLLINS and JOSI KONSKI Produced by PETER S. DAVIS and WILLIAM PANZER
Directed by ABEL FERRARA An ENTERTAINMENT Release © WHISKER PRODUCTIONS INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

STARTS TODAY CANNON OXFORD STREET CANNON PANTON STREET

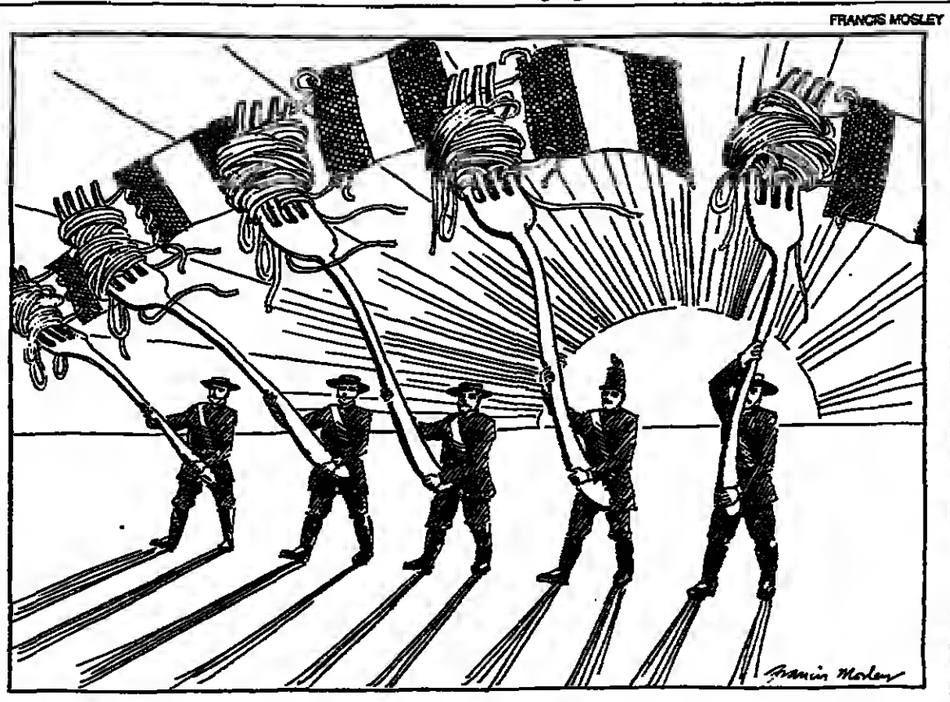
AND SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS LONDON AND THE U.K.

SEE LISTINGS AND LOCAL PRESS FOR SHOWING DETAILS

EATING OUT

Jonathan Meades dines at an imitation brasserie, and enjoys a taste of ideal Italian cooking in Olympia

FRANCIS MOSLEY



Pastiche with water

The first thing to note about the new **Grill St Quentin** is that it is calculated to give the impression of being the largest restaurant in London — no doubt some of the Cantonese canteens of south Soho can accommodate more punters, but oone of them employs a single space on the sheer scale of this Brompton basement, a former gymnasium. I have no doubt that interested parties can obtain from the management a fact-pack detailing the dimensions of the joint; sufficient to state that whilst it may not be as big as a football pitch, it could certainly make do as one. At least it could, were it not for the pillars — which bring us to point two: this is a "theme" restaurant. Now most "theme" restaurants are zealously down-market — idealized mid-western diners for indigent teenagers; pseudo-colonial outfits for beaven knows who; the sadly-departed Pub Lotus for boy racers (the draught beer was pulled with gear levers, the tables were magnesium alloy wheels). The Grill St Quentin is different. It is a "theme" restaurant for socially ambitious and gastronomically timid metropolitans. The theme is La Coupole, the most famous and largest brasserie in the history of, well, in the history of brasseries. La Coupole is, as I noted when I wrote about it in February, now a replica of its original self, a sort of auto-pastiche. It is this "new" refurbished Coopole that the Grill St Quentin mimics in order to flatter its "knowing" clientele — the eau-de-Nil pillars marbled with gilt are ringers for those on the Boulevard du Montparnasse; there is an attempt, too, to reproduce the seating pattern; there is a forest of light wood. And so on.

This is sincere flattery all right, but it's also — how should we put it? — a oot particularly imaginative means of creating a very big restaurant. The most striking decorative facet of the original — the paintings at the tops of the pillars — has not been aped. The Grill St Quentin is a dilute pastiche. Still, that doesn't much matter: what matters is whether it succeeds on its own patch. London is a very different city to Paris. The egalitarianism of the great French brasseries is unknown in London save at Kensington Place. Certainly there is no marked social mix at the Grill St Quentin. The clientele is manifestly well-heeled, well shod, well suited, and moderately glamorous. The night I dined the punters included a middle-aged pop singer and a vacuum of his aristocratic groupies, numerous actors, many tans. In this regard it's not unlike bow Langan's Brasserie was eight or 10 years ago. But it doesn't possess that place's theatricality. Still, there is an unmistakable bustle.

After less than a month it is already constantly packed. It would be fair to say that this is not because of the cooking and is despite the service. Anyone expecting the standard dishes of brasserie cooking — *choucroute*, oysters, *navarin*, etc — is in for a disappointment. This is essentially a steak and chips outfit. Given whicb the ehips sbould be a lot better — they *were* better in the old Grill St Quentio in Cheval Place. The meat is of unimpeachable quality and is deftly grilled. A lump of beef fillet was marginally superior to a tournedos. This carnal course was preceded by a reasonable, though unevenly cooked *foie gras* terrine and a dish of two grilled goat cheeses, rather sour and yoghurt-like *crottins* with a strangely dressed salad. Both liver and cheese were accompanied by toast, which is evidently one of the kitchen's specialities — it also sbowed up with the beef fillet. It's not easy to figure out why the menu is as short (and, frankly, uoexciting) as it is. The St Quentin empire owns at least two *charcuteries* and produces a wide range of terrines, pâtés, etc. Only one of these is offered in the Grill. No doubt the *pâtisserie* here is as fine as in the retail branch 50 yards away. But having spent more than two bours over two courses, we felt in no mood to hang about while some highly-trained operative took 40 minutes to cut a slice of cake. The service is insultingly dilatory, and when it's not dilatory it is infuriatingly flustered. The two qualities that the management has sought in its staff are the inability to speak eveo a phrase of English and amnesia. At least it drew the line at rudeness. The staff here, unlike those at La Coupole, are indubitably civil. With an ungreedily priced bottle of Ch Haut Brissoo '85, the bill was £64.

I suppose it's rather futile to draw attention to the stunted culinary aspirations of such an establishment. Gastronomy is not the point of the Grill St Quentin. There is no pretence to the contrary. In a way it strikes me as being a step backwards, for the most fashionable places of the last few years — The River Café, Kensington Place, Bibendum, Alastair Little, etc — have also been ones where the cooking was special. At the Grill St Quentin, the social and the gastronomic are ooce again divorced. This is England.

Cibo is situated in the grim environs of Olympia. If ever a place deserved the sort of audience that the Grill St Quentin is getting, this is it. It is the finest Italian restaurant to have opeoed in London, maybe in Britain, since The River Café — from which, I guess, it has learnt some valuable lessons. First among these is to offer a menu composed of dishes that yoo'd more likely find in an (ideal) Italian home rather than in a restaurant. The second is to use very good ingredients in as straightforward a manner as possible. The third is not to do out the premises like an Italian restaurant. The fourth is to employ a staff which, if it includes Italians, does oot include restaurant-Italians.

The other place that Cibo recalls is Orso. But unlike Orso (which uses the same bright pottery plates as Cibo) and unlike The River Café, this joint is owned by Italians and has a chef who is a Triestine. The owner is definitely not a restaurant-Italian. He's tremendously enthusiastic, friendly, attentive. He is a young man who does not look as though he has spent his life abusing customers, cursing bad tippers, leering at women diners. His restaurant is done out with the same energy that characterizes the kitchen, though with rather less expertise. It stays just this side of the chaotic. There is a load of figurative sculpture by Mick Karn (which is for sale) and there are a number of paintings, bung with no particular care. There are also vases full of paint-sprayed twigs and gewgaws wherever you look. The effect is by no means unattractive. This sort of eager ad-bocism is invariably more satisfying than the grand schemes of all but the most gifted designers.

As I say, the kitchen is energetic. It bas plenty of ideas and doesn't allow itself to be shackled by adherence to purely Italian precedent. An *entrecôte* of beef with stewed ceps, braised endives, spinach and oddly delicious roasted potatoes is not so far from the sort of dish one finds in the restaurants of the brighter chefs in France, Belgium, even England. Again, ceps fried with garlic is not a peculiarly Italian dish, though it is a peculiarly great one. And there is nothing to distinguish Cibo's delicious raw marinated fish (salmon, scallops, tuna) from the same thing in internationally landed Gut Palaces.

All of these were excellent, and so were a number of more obviously Italian jobs, dishes that remind us that Italy borders oo Switzerland and Austria, as well as the Med. Asiago cheese is grilled and served with sweet, sweated yellow peppers. *Gnocchi* — wonderfully light potato flour creations — are served with braised rabbit of the utmost savouriness. Mullet is simply grilled and presented with a jug of olive oil and garlic, and a bottle of Pasquali's extra-virgin to pour oo it. A fish risotto is very fishy indeed, but insufficiently unctuous to my taste; but this is a small flaw in a memorable meal. The all-Italian wines begin at as little as £5.95 for a Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. With two Camparis and a bottle of fine Chardonnay from Manzoni the bill was £78. This is the last restaurant I shall review this year (next week we publisb a hefty chunk of the directory, the week after is prize-giving), and it is one of the best, one of those that satisfies the simple and telliog criterion of almost immediately prompting the idea of a re-visit.

GRILL ST QUENTIN
★★★
Yeoman's Row, Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-581 8377).
Lunch and dinner Mon to Sat. £72. Major cards.

CIBO
★★★★★★★
3 Russell Gardens, London W14 (01-371 6271).
Lunch Sun to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat. £58-£78. Major cards.

DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD AND CHARLOTTE STREET

Jamdani
34 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-636 1178)
★★★★★★
Elegant modern restaurant — all adobe walls and wrought steel chairs. Many of the dishes are to be found in no other subcontinental establishment, for example, curried hare, the battered fish called *Amritsar*, pineapple and vermicelli pudding. And more familiar dishes are executed with unfamiliar panache. But it is expensive: £60 (without alcohol).

Lal Qila
117 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-387 4570)
★★★★★
Vanguard of new wave Indian cookery — good quality ingredients, "clean" tastes, herbs as much in evidence as spices. Fine king prawn masala and char-grilled chicken, well marinated meats. £50.

Chez Gerard
8 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-636 4975)
★★★★★
Very French steak house. The meat, especially the ribs and the Châteaubriand, is splendid and the *pommes alumettes* are among the best in town. Dishes of the day include *echt* Provençal offerings such as *aioli* with salt cod. The wines are indifferent and the service is harried. Cheese is better than the sweets. £48.

Zazou
74 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-436 5133)
★★★★★★
Southern French fish restaurant in a smart basement with some sort of cocktail bar on the ground floor. Many of the dishes are slightly and — unusual this — successfully orientalized: oysters with curry sauce, salmon with soy and ginger. Grilled fish is simply served with extra virgin olive oil. The cooking is unfailingly impressive and so are the cheeses which are, oddly, all British. £74.

Ikkyu
67 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-636 9280)
★★★★★★
Informal and rather chaotic Japanese basement café specializing — the only place in London to do so — in *robatayaki* (rustic cooking). Much of this is very good indeed: potato and beef stew, grilled pickerel, meaty tasting miso soup, wonderful sashimi in large portions, grilled duck. Mercifully no care is taken to make pictures on plates. £20.

Rue St Jacques
5 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-637 0222)
★★★
Grandly got-up canteen for businessmen with rucksacks full of credit plastic. Flashy looking dishes for shy tongues. Overbearing service. £100.

ECLECTIC

Morton's
28 Berkeley Square, London W1 (01-499 0363)
★★★★
A formerly louche club which has cleaned up its act. The bar is straight out of Manhattan, the dining room is more or less True Brit — and it has a balcony which overlooks the square. This is one of the finest sites in London to lunch in. Some of the vaguely Franglais cooking is notable — particularly the fish cakes which must be the best ever. Decent short wine list and notably reasonable prices. £45.

Le Lion
106 Black Lion Lane, London W6 (01-748 9070)
★★★★
Extremely cramped bistro serving generally well made dishes such as pork with brandy and juniper and chicken with a creamy vermouth sauce. Inexpensive wines. £48.

Menage à Trois
15 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (01-589 4252/584 9350)
★★
One of the most fashionable restaurants of the early Eighties, when its gimmick was to serve only starters and puds. It now does more than that but is still wildly eclectic. The dishes are well intentioned and often ill executed. The wine list is among the best in Britain. £85-£95.

Monkeys
1 Cale Street, London SW3 (01-352 4711)
★★★★
Shabby, panelled, rather dated Chelsea bistro, some of whose dishes are good and some of which might be very good, were just a tiny bit more trouble taken. Châteaubriand is, oddly, served with *nouvelle cuisine*-style veg purées; raviolis of lobster and bass are well flavoured, if inaccurately cooked; the cheeses are copiously portioned and well kept. Chaotic wine list, pleasant service. £68.

Ciboure
21 Eccleston Street, London, SW1 (01-730 2505)
★★
Small, smart haunt of frock designers. The cooking is seduiously bent on novelty — prunes and nutmeg turn up in a *foie gras* terrine, citrus fruit mars a juniper sauce, beef is mugged by heavyweight herbing. £70.

Odette's
130 Regent Park Road, London NW1 (01-586 5486)
★★★★
All greenery and gewgaws, prints and photos, it looks like a Seventies bistro. But the cooking is considered and accomplished. Crab and chicken mousse, duck with pineapple, quail salad with walnut sauce. Decent wines, amenable service. £85.

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE

Without a doubt the Best Thai Restaurant in London
Reasonably priced authentic cuisine served by Thai staff in National Costumes
THE BLUE JADE
Thai Restaurant
Open every evening including Sundays for dinner 6pm-12 midnight (last orders 11.15)
Reservations & Enquiries 01-828 0321
44 HUGH STREET, PIMLICO SWIV 4EP

Old Peking
Chinese Restaurant
Peking, Szuchuan, Hunan Cuisine
Fully Licensed & Air Conditioning
Open: 12.00-2.30, 6.00-11.45 7 days a week
Party Functions Welcome
116 CHURCHFIELD ROAD ACTON, LONDON W3
TEL: 01-992 9473

Sonar Gaon
We would like to extend Christmas Greetings to all our patrons
Superb Indian Cuisine
Open: Lunch 12-3pm Dinner 6pm - midnight
46 UPPER STREET ISLINGTON N1
01 - 226 6499

SURYA
INDIAN VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT
FOR JUST GOOD FOOD IN GOOD SURROUNDINGS PLAN YOUR VISIT IN ADVANCE
Telephone: 01 435 7486 for bookings
59/61 FORTUNE GREEN ROAD, WEST HAMPSTEAD N.W.6

Mandeer Established 1961
No preservatives. No colouring & No additives
Indian & European wholefoods
WINNER OF EGON RONAY'S "PLACE OF THE YEAR" AWARD 1987 "BEST LUNCH IN BRITAIN" AWARD
L.V. & Caterer & Hostelkeeper
Open 12pm - 3pm Evenings 6pm -10pm Closed Sundays
21 HANWAY PLACE, W1
2 mins from Tottenham Court Road tube
TEL: 01-323 0660

MR KAN
CHINESE RESTAURANT
Open now, Cantonese & Szechuan cuisine. Kosher wine available
Business hours. 12-3pm & 5.30-11.30pm
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all our customers
29 MARKET PLACE, FALLODEN WAY HAMPSTEAD GARDEN VILLAGE LONDON NW11 6JY
TEL: 01-458 1162/455 8861

One Ninety Queen's Gate
Few Tables Still Remaining For NEW YEARS EVE
For an evening of Sheer Decadence
Also open for for Christmas
Sunday Lunch on Christmas Eve
190 Queensgate, London SW7.
Tel: 01-581 5666

FLEET TANDOORI 1+2
INDIAN RESTAURANT
346 Muswell Hill, Broadway, London N10 Tel: 01-883 8252
104 Fleet Road, London NW3. Tel: 01-485 6402
Special Vegetarian dishes. Main specialities - chicken tikka masala & chicken jal ferezi. Try our delicious curry dishes
Highly recommended by many food critics including Time Out

mr Kong
CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mr Kong Restaurant for the finest Cantonese cuisine; specialising in seafood and highly spiced dishes.
Parties catered for.
Pre-theatre dinners. Fully licensed.
OPENING HOURS 12.00 NOON - 2.00 AM
21 LISLE STREET, LONDON WC2
TEL: 01 - 437 7341

NOW OPEN
NAMASTE
Indian & Nepalese Restaurant
Enjoy excellent Indian & Nepalese cuisine in French style surroundings with a riverside view
or
relax in our wine bar
5 minutes from the new London Arena
Parking for over 50 cars.
Booking is advisable
65-67 AMSTERDAM ROAD (off Manchester Rd) London Yard, Isle of Dogs, LONDON E14 9JB
Tel: 01-538 1919
Visit our other restaurants in the City (5 mins from Tower Bridge)
30 Alie Street, London E1
Tel: 488 9242 702 1504

THE CHERRY ORCHARD
vegetarian restaurant
241 GLOBE ROAD E2. 01 980 6678
"One of the few traditional vegetarian restaurants in London. Cosy but elegant ... prices are very reasonable."
Company
"Run with cheerful enthusiasm ... offers carefully prepared vegetarian food. Delicious sweets."
Egon Ronay's Just a Bite
"Magazine a useful place to know about."
City Limits
Open Tues-Fri 12.30 & 7pm-10.30pm
Sat 12-10.30 Closed Sun & Mon
2 minutes from Bethnal Green tube

Chinese Cuisine Peking, Szechuan & Cantonese
It is often said that the best kind of restaurant is a 'Mom & Pop' operation where the owners are on hand to make sure that every customer is treated as one of the family. Ma & Pa, with a name that reflects those of the owners, is a restaurant committed to the same ideal.
Some dishes you will recognise as old and good friends. Others might be new to you. Be adventurous in your ordering.
You know Ma & Pa would like it.
PARTY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS
MA & PA
1316 High Road Whetstone, London N20
01-446 8237/8
飲食軒

KINNAREE
"THE QUINTESSENCE OF THAI CUISINE"
KINNAREE
6 Friars Stile Road, Richmond, Surrey.
Tel: 01-948 3689/4183
Open 7 days
Closed Saturday lunchtime

H. BLANKLEY & SON LTD.
Champagne And Caviar
Over 130 Champagnes in Stock
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH CHAMPAGNE
Daily London deliveries
generous case discounts
The Champagne & Caviar Shop
18 Leadenhall Market, London EC3
Tel 01-283 5108/626 4912

A. A. TANDOORI RESTAURANT
FULLY LICENSED
HIGH CLASS INDIAN CUISINE
5 DEANS COURT
OFF ST. PAULS CHURCH YARD
LONDON, EC4
Try our excellent food and friendly service. Business lunch and evening dinner. Take away service available business hours Mon.- Fri. 12.00am. to 10.30pm. Sat. 12.00am to 2.30pm and 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Sunday closed.
For reservations and Christmas Party
Please ring: 489-1847 and 236-6512

FOOD

In search of the perfect turkey

The most fortunate turkeys of 1989 will be spending a quiet Christmas at home in a secluded corner of the Essex flatlands, spared the grand seasonal cull in the interests of eugenics.

They will owe their survival to the dedicated pursuit of the perfect turkey, undertaken by farmer Derek Kelly, down the bloodlines of a dozeo breeds, some rescued from obscurity or near-extinction. At some distant date, Kelly believes, a mingling of genes among his breeding stock will produce a turkey which will help supplant the standardized product offered by today's mass marketeers.

It is a search constantly frustrated by the death and consumption of its principal participants. "We are getting there, but I can't see us reaching the zenith for another two decades," says Kelly. "The problem is that you eat a very good bird, but then it's dead and you can't breed from it. You just bave to hope it runs in the family."

But, when the paragon of shape, size and flavour eventually emerges, it may not be so different from Kelly's black-feathered bronze turkey, a throwback which is already a best-seller on the burgeoning "farm-fresb" and "traditional" market. This season, traditionally-raised fresh turkeys will account for more than a quarter of the 11 million turkeys sold nationwide and sales of the bronze are climbing.

The bronze's price may be higher, pound for pound — at up to £1.88, which is at least 20p more than the standard, farm-fresh turkey — but not so high as to deter the once-a-year buyer.

Yet the recent history of the bronze is an illuminating example of the vagaries of public taste. Its tangled pedigree leads back to the wild bird first brought home from the Americas by the *conquistadores*.

Only 30 years ago the bronze was still the standard centrepiece of the Christmas dinner-table before an abrupt fall from favour, caused less by concern for quality than its ill looks. The carcass of the bronze has unsightly designer stubble left beneath the skin after plucking.

Its place was soon taken by its whiter cousins, raised quickly for a place in the freezer cabinet on a diet rich in growth promoters. Blandness was all. But, in 1984, the bronze's time came again. A chance compliment oo its flavour from a local butcher prompted Kelly to collect a breeding pool of 120 birds.

The rest is the stuff of marketing legend. By happy coincidence, the revival came at an appropriate time. The Traditional Farmfresh Turkey Association, wbose members' birds sport a gold triangle ticket, was formed five years ago to pioneer the way back from factory farming and it has seen its membership climb to more than 70.

The association's quality code stipulates that the plucked birds should be hung for at least seven days before evisceration, contributing to the slight gamey taste. Equally important to an ever more anxious public, the birds are often reared on a diet of at least 70 per cent corn, free of artificial growth promoters and pass their days in well-aired, open-ended sheds.

The advantages are mutual. The turkey is said to be happier, and exposure to fresh air and cold gives it a layer of fatty "marbling" that makes for extra flavour.

But "traditional" rearing techniques should not be equated with free-range, a term still awaiting a strict legal definition. The bronze and other "farm-fresh" birds may see a little more life — about 20 weeks — than their "factory bred counterparts" but no more of the world outside the rearing shed. Kelly is planning a tentative experiment with free-range methods for next year after a recent visit to France where turkeys of some farming co-operatives are still allowed to roam free.

The problem may lie with the consumer. Kelly speaks wistfully of the different Freoch attitudes towards food: "They are ready to pay for quality. Here we begrudge the cost."

William Underhill

● *Further details from: Derek Kelly Turkeys, Springate Farm, Danbury, Essex CM3 4EP.*

DRINK

Mulling it over

Mulled wine and other warming Christmas cups, punches and toddies can be delicious or disgusting *(Jane MacQuitty writes)*. I have been to plenty of festive functions when the host has bought the cheapest hooch, stirred in a cupboardful of stale spices and bruised fruit, and then wondered why the guests have left early.

The secret behind all hot, alcoholic concoctions is to buy the best and freshest ingredients and never let the mull boil over; if you do, not only does all your precious alcohol evaporate in this process, but the mull takes on an unpleasant stewed flavour.

The most Christmassy of these hot, alcoholic tipples is mulled wine. Every European country has its own version. The Swedes spike theirs with aquavit, cardamom and dried fruit and call it *glögg*. The Germans pour in several shots of schnapps and call it *glühwein*, or glowing wine, but the best recipe I have found is still the simplest.

Christmas Mull: *One bottle good, full-bodied inexpensive red wine such as Sainsbury's plummy Arruda (£1.95) or Thresher's Trussley Bulgarian Plovdiv Cabernet (£2.19); pinch each of cloves and mixed spice; several slices of orange and lemon; sugar to taste; plus half a glass of brandy or any citrus-based liqueur such as Cointreau or Grand Marnier.*

Place all the ingredients in a large stainless steel or enamel saucepan and heat gently, without boiling. Strain contents through a fine plastic sieve (which stops your guests getting cloves stuck in their teeth) into a large heat-proof jug and serve. This makes six generous glasses.

If this Chrismas mull is our best and simplest recipe, then the Bishop is Britain's most traditional mull. No one really knows how it got its name but I suspect its deep purple colour may have had something to do with it.

The Bishop: *1½ bottles inexpensive port; a good ruby such as Sandeman's (Oddbins, £4.99) or Cockburn's (Oddbins, £5.49) or Smith Woodhouse's (Majestic Wine Warehouses, £4.59) will do; two oranges; handful of cloves; one pint hot water; generous pinch mixed spice; 2oz lump sugar to taste.*

Stick the cloves into one of the oranges and roast it in the oven for about half an hour. Meanwhile, pour the port into a large stainless steel or enamel saucepan and heat gently without boiling. Pour the hot water and mixed spice into another saucepan and bring to the boil. Remove the orange from the oven and add to the port saucepan, together with the hot spiced water. Stir gently until thoroughly heated. Finally, just before serving, rub the sugar lumps firmly over the skin of the second orange to absorb its zest and oils, discard this orange, and put the sugar lumps into a large heat-proof punch bowl or jug and pour the hot spiced port over them. Serves 15-20.

Cider or beer makes a good base for a hot Christmas cup and this hot apple punch is the most moreish I know.

Hot Apple Punch: *Six pints medium dry cider; one large cooking apple; soft brown sugar to taste; one large stick cinnamon; two thinly-sliced lemons; one bottle Calvados, try Sainsbury's own-label version (£9.69).*

Stick the cloves into the apple and roast it in the oven. Meanwhile pour two pints of the cider into a large stainless steel or enamel saucepan and add the sugar and cinnamon stick. Heat gently until all the sugar has dissolved. Remove the roast apple from the oven and add it and all the other ingredients to the saucepan. Heat gently but do not let the punch boil. Serves 25-30.

RESISTING TEMPTATION
THE DOW'S PORT GUIDE

Temptation No 5
A worrying urge to yield to the blandishments of glossy, tinsel-bedecked advertisements for other people's Port.

Solution
Show some self-respect. Stay true to Dow's. Our advertisements may be small but the wines are truly great.

Merry Christmas.

THE TRUE VINTAGE CHARACTER OF DOW'S

Perfect for a red-letter day

Make sure that the red wine you serve on Christmas Day fits your feast. Jane MacQuitty continues her guide to festive tippling with the best of the High Street reds

BARGAIN BOTTLES

Sainsbury's Arruda, Sainsbury, £1.95
Everyone needs a cheap and cheerful festive red to turn into mulled wine or to serve with those simple pre and post-Christmas meals. The inexpensive plummy fruit and cinnamon spice of this well-made Portuguese red continue to make it the best red bargain-buy in the country, just as it was last year.

Bulgarian Plovdiv Cabernet Sauvignon, Thresher, £2.19
Thresher's canny wine buyer recently scooped up a bargain-buy parcel from the Bulgars, who wanted to sell quickly this robust, rich, truffley wine. Bulgaria's loss is our gain.

1988 Les Roches Blanches, Côtes du Ventoux, Waitrose, £2.65
The bright crimson-purple colour and rich, chunky, spicy, herbaceous character of this stylish wine from the Rhône are much classier than its price-tag would suggest.

HOUSE REDS

1986 Sirius, Thresher and Wine Rack, £4.99
Peter Sichel's delicious, ripe, scented, seductive, cassis-laden claret is even more impressive now than it was when it was first launched here last year. Classic Christmas claret.

1978 Romeira Garrafeira, Sainsbury, £3.75
Good red burgundy is too costly to qualify for this "house red" category. But this aged Portuguese red, with its spicy tobacco and truffle-like scents backed up by lashings of warm, winter fruit, makes a great alternative.

1985 Côtes du Rhône, Guigal, Oddbins, £4.89
Guigal is one of the great red Rhône names, and this glorious, rich, ripe, spicy-fruity Syrah mouthful is streets ahead of other Côtes du Rhônes. Perfect with spicy, festive fare.

CHRISTMAS ALE

1989 Anchor's Christmas Ale, Majestic Wine Warehouses, £1.19
Beer drinkers need not be left out just because it's Christmas. Anchor's San Franciscan yuletide brew changes slightly every year, and 1989's powerful, full-bodied, spicy-hoppy style is one of the best yet.

GAME

1985 Wynn's Shiraz, Owens Valley, The Victoria Wine Company, £4.69
A haunch of spiced, well-hung venison is, along with jugged hare, the most fiendish game dish for which to find a vinous partner. This purple-black essence of blackberry liqueur-like Australian wine should be just the ticket.

Chambolle Musigny, Marks & Spencer, £7.99
As long as you go easy on those game sauces and stuffings, this classy, non-vintage red burgundy from Bouchard-Aîné should cope with ease. Try opening this M & S offering two hours before the meal begins, in order to let all its spicy, fragrant scents and mature, cedary and tobacco-like fruit to develop.

1986 Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon, Arthur Rackham, £10.79
From one of the best wineries in South Australia's Barossa Valley, this intense, luscious, concentrated bramble and cassis-packed Cabernet would go down well with pheasant or grouse.

TURKEY/CAPON

1986 Clos du Bois Merlot, Davison's, Majestic, £5.99
California Cabernet is still, I think, the best bet with the festive bird, complete with those much-loved festive garnishes of bacon rolls, chipolatas, bread sauce at al. This rich, plummy, raisiny Merlot from California's Sonoma Valley makes a welcome change.

1985 Santa Rita Cabernet Sauvignon, Oddbins, £4.49, Victoria Wine, £4.89
Not yet in the same league as the best from California or Australia, Chile's impressive Santa Rita Cabernet nevertheless offers lots of robust, ripe, blackcurranty, cedary fruit.

1985 Newton Cabernet Sauvignon, Oddbins, £9.99
Just about as classy a California Cabernet as you can get, blessed, for once, with an equally classy red and black label. Enjoy this rich, spicy, blackcurranty wine with the festive bird, and if you are feeling indulgent with the cold Boxing Day meal.

SPICED BEEF

1985 Pavillon Rouge, Margaux, Marks & Spencer, £16
Not all of us eat turkey on Christmas Day; lots of families enjoy a magnificent rib of beef instead. Beef makes a perfect foil to a great claret such as this utterly delicious, elegant sandalwood and cedarwood-redolent second label from celebrated first-growth Château Margaux.

1979 Les Forts de Latour, Marks & Spencer, £16, Waitrose, £15.50
Spiced or pickled beef needs the biggest, boldest claret you can find, and this distinguished, powerfully blackcurranty second label from mighty first-growth property Château Latour should fit the bill nicely.

1985 Gevrey-Chambertin, Domaine Alain Burguet, Davison's, £16.50
Burgundy fans should buy a bottle or two of this delicious, red, plummy, leathery, truffley Gevrey-Chambertin for the big day. Its firm fruit would make it an admirable partner for beef.

YORK HAM

1986 Domaine de Cabrières, Châteauneuf du Pape, Peter Dominic, £7.75
A whole York Ham is as Christmassy as turkey and plum pudding. Serve slices of yours with this fine, rich, spicy-oaky Châteauneuf from Louis Arnaud. Its bite and backbone would also make it a good choice to accompany the cold Boxing Day spread.

1987 Beaulieu Vineyards Pinot Noir, Sainsbury, £7.95
Not the wine for every Pinot Noir fan, but BV's soft, light, plums and roses-like offering should go down well with York Ham.

1986 Pesquera, Ribera del Duero, Oddbins, £9.49
Alejandro Fernandez's amazingly rich, voluptuous, truffley-plummy Pesquera has been dubbed the Pétrus of Spain, and not without reason. Particularly good with York ham and beef.

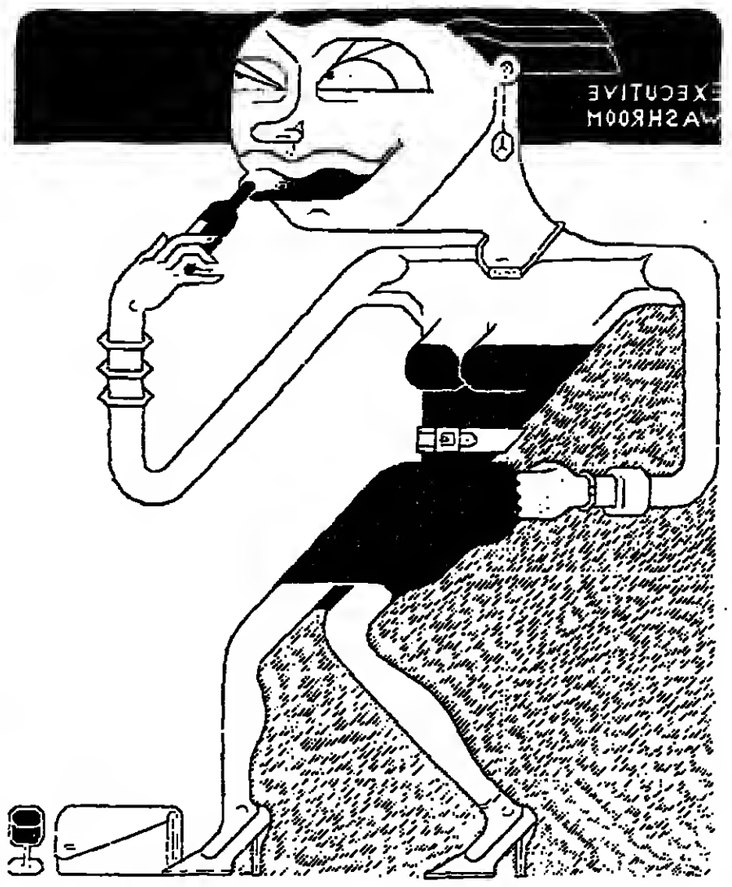
GOOSE/DUCK

1987 Barbera, Vigna Rey, Gaja, Oddbins, £12.99
Goose, duck and other fatty birds need red wines with high acidity to cut through their fat and richness. This fine Barbera with its wonderful, ripe, roses and raspberries-like bouquet and palate should be an ideal choice from celebrated Italian wine man, Angelo Gaja.

1987 Santa Cristina, Antinori, Victoria Wine, £3.99
This fine, spicy-truffley Tuscan red from the respected house of Antinori is not in the same league as the Gaja, but its solid, spicy fruit will take on duck or goose with ease.

1983 Tignanello, Antinori, Wine Rack, £12.95
One of the all-time great Italian reds, also from Antinori, and so it should be at this price. Enjoy this red's powerful, rich, complex, beefy fruit, not just with goose and duck but also with beef and turkey.

ERIC BEAUMONT



THE PERFECT PULL

The Screwpull Lever model ensures a perfect pull - in seconds! Now widely recognised as the ultimate corkscrew. This professional machine works by simple, effortless lever action

Gift packed as a set with the foilcutter.

£85

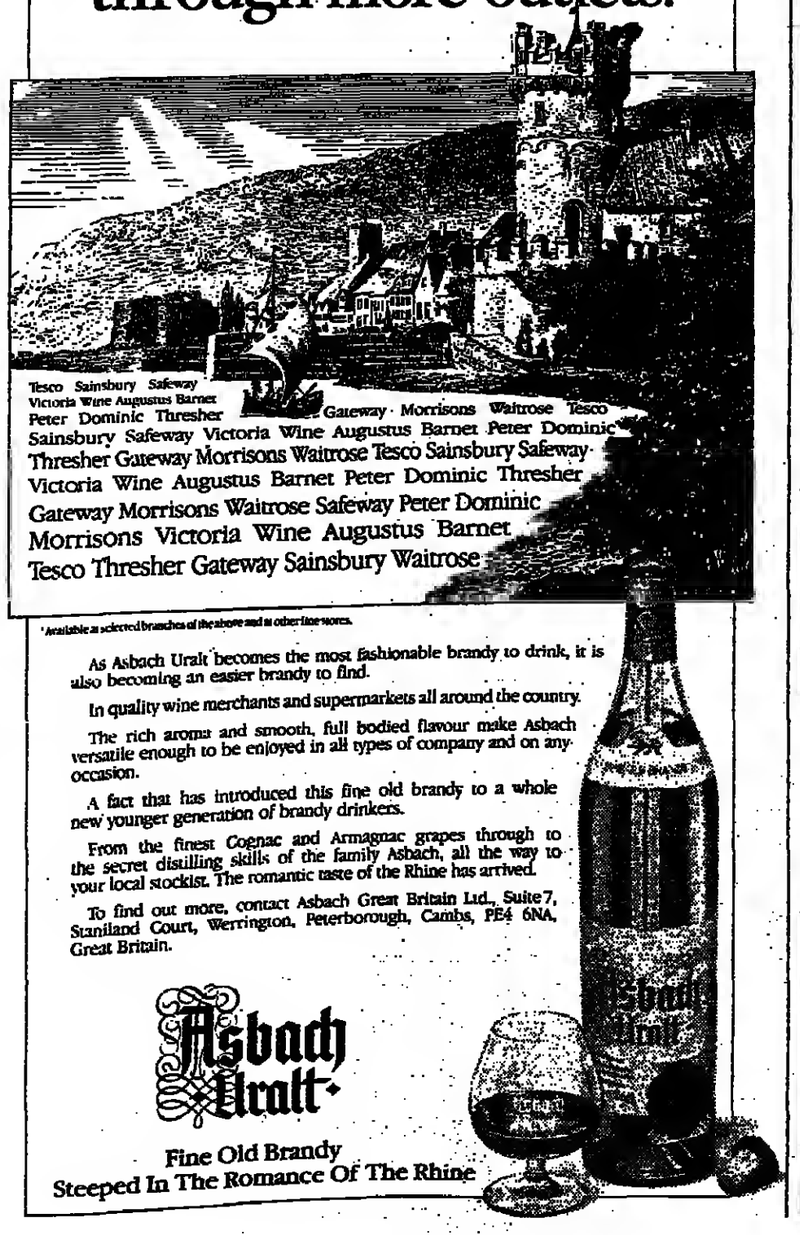
Any of Screwpull's ingenious wine accessories will make an original gift for anyone who enjoys wine. From good department stores, cookshops and wine shops.

Screwpull® WINE ACCESSORIES BY HALLEN

Foil Cutter £4.95 · Table Model £9.95 · Spinhandle £8.95 · Champagne Star £7.50

Call 01-847 2493 for stockists

When you're as popular as Asbach Uralt you need to flow through more outlets.



*Available at selected branches of the above and at other fine stores.

As Asbach Uralt becomes the most fashionable brandy to drink, it is also becoming an easier brandy to find.

In quality wine merchants and supermarkets all around the country.

The rich aroma and smooth, full bodied flavour make Asbach versatile enough to be enjoyed in all types of company and on any occasion.

A fact that has introduced this fine old brandy to a whole new younger generation of brandy drinkers.

From the finest Cognac and Armagnac grapes through to the secret distilling skills of the family Asbach, all the way to your local stockist. The romantic taste of the Rhine has arrived.

To find out more, contact Asbach Great Britain Ltd., Suite 7, Staniland Court, Werrington, Peterborough, Cambs, PE4 6NA, Great Britain.

Asbach Uralt

Fine Old Brandy
Steeped In The Romance Of The Rhine

NEXT WEEK

The best of the High Street's fortified and sparkling wines

SCOTCH RATIONS

Regular readers of these spaces will no doubt be aware that, as distillers of Scotland's last hand-made whisky, our old-fashioned, painstaking processes severely limit the availability of The Edradour.

A recent correspondent has suggested, therefore, that perhaps we should issue ration coupons so that more people can look forward to regular (albeit tiny) amounts of our 10 year old Highland malt.

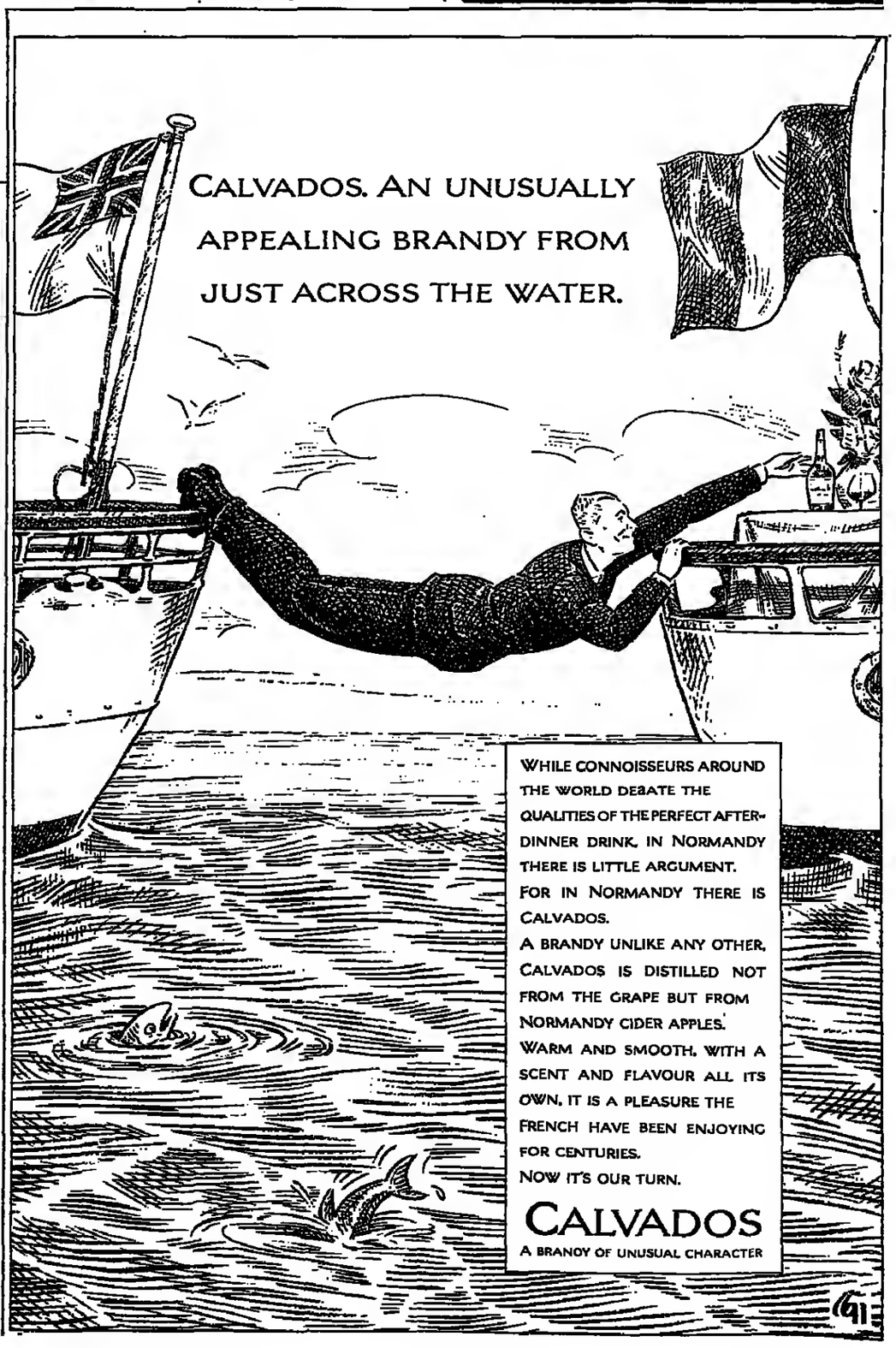
We look forward to hearing your opinion.

THE EDRADOUR EST. 1825
The smallest distillery in Scotland

GRAND BORDEAUX AT A PETIT PRICE

'Chateau de Belcier
The Petit Château that thinks its a Grand Château
From around £4.50.'

'PHONE PAUL BOUTINOT WINES
061 477 1171
FOR OTHER STOCKISTS



BOOKS

Lowering the Tone of illusion

Conor Cruise O'Brien on why a "revisionist" biography of Irish patriot and reluctant revolutionary Wolfe Tone has offended republican sensibilities

This is an excellent biography: the first life of Tone to be based on extensive research, and probably also the last; "definitive" probably does apply. Don't let the subtitle put you off. It did me, rather, until I read the book. The subtitle is misleading for two reasons. First, it suggests hagiography, of which Wolfe Tone has attacted huge amounts. Marianne Elliott is not a hagiographer; not by any means. Irish republicans have already branded her book as "revisionist", a term of abuse they have borrowed from the Marxist-Leninists, to refer to a blurter-out of unacceptable truth.

The second reason why the title can be misleading is that it can be taken as predicting something that actually happened. In fact what happened, in the 20th century, was the reverse of what Tone had hoped for, worked for, and seems to have expected, in the 1780s and 1790s. Wolfe Tone hoped and worked for unity between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland. The kind of "Irish Independenee" that emerged, in December 1921, and that still exists, was independence for the homogeneously Catholie part of Ireland, side by side with murderous interaction between Catholics and Protestants in that part of Ireland that is reluctantly shared by both communities. That the kind of intercommunal strife that was going oo in County Armagh in Wolfe Tone's day between the Catholic Defenders and the Protestant Peep o-Day Boys could still be going on 200 years later is something quite incredible, in terms of Wolfe Tone's understanding, of the way the world was going, and Ireland along with it.

Like many middle-class people born around 1760, anywhere in western Europe, Wolfe Tone was a secular optimist. He thought, God help him, that all those ancient animosities, in and around religion, were about to disappear under the healing rays of the Enlightenment in his own lifetime. He wishfully exaggerated the extent to which the Enlightenment had penetrated both the Catholie and Protestant communities in Ireland.

"The emancipated and liberal Irishman, like the emancipated Frenchman, may go to Mass, may turn his beads or sprinkle his mistress with holy water. But neither the one nor the other will attend to the rusty and ex-

WOLFE TONE
Prophet of Irish Independence
By Marianne Elliott
Yale, £16.95

tinguished thunderbolts of the Vatican." I don't have space here to enumerate the various misleading ideas that Tone packed into those sentences, but the main one was the implicatioo that "emancipated and liberal Catholics" were the ones that mattered. There were, in fact, very few of these. When the revolution that Tone had worked for broke out in 1798, the Catholics who rose were not children of the Enlightenment. They were members of the agrarian and millenarian movement of the Defenders, and they massacred the Protestants of County Wexford.

Wolfe Tone entertains similar illusions about Belfast Presbyterians, and at least one of them noticed that he was kidding himself. Elliott records one Sam McTier as commenting: "He mistakes the situation of this town [Belfast and the county round]. They are still full of prejudice which time only can remove." Even the shrewd McTier could hardly have guessed that time, 200 years later, would have left the prejudices of both communities intact and deadly.

In 1796, very near the end of his life, Wolfe Tone was living in Paris as a guest of what was still, although only just, revolutionary France. At this time he made a statement, which has become gospel to Irish republicans, representing his entire political career as having been devoted to the revolutionary cause. Elliott refutes this representation, which is what has earned her the epithet of "revisionist".

She shows that from 1790 to 1795, Tone was a radical (although with some vague revolutionary inclinations) whose political work was mainly in the service oot of the United Irishmen — the movement with which his name is mainly linked in retrospect — but of the Catholic Committee, which was not a revolutionary organization. Its sole object was Catholic emancipation. Tone served the Catholic Committee loyally and capably and it took almost all his time. He became a revolutionary only in 1795, and then almost by accident, being drawn into revolotion by others.

It happened this way: in April 1794, the Directory in Paris sent an agent, a Francophile English clergyman named William Jackson, to Dublin with a mission to find out how an invasion of Ireland from France would be received by the people. One of those contacted by Jacksoo was a friend of Tone's, Archibald Hamilton Rowan. Jackson had brought with him a statement he had prepared about how the French would be received in England; he drew a bleak picture of that. Rowan asked Tone to draw up a parallel statement about Ireland and the French. Tone did so; the result was highly optimistic, on grounds that were partly realistic, partly illusory. When Tone — still not a real revolutionary — found out what was going on, he got his statement back from Rowan, but traces of his contact with Jacksoo remained.

When Jackson was arrested near the end of April, a letter from Tone was found among his papers. This was prima-facie evidence of treason, since England (and Ireland) were at war with France. The authorities, rightly at this stage, didn't take Tone seriously as a revolutionary, but they wanted to get rid of him because his work for the Catholic Committee, while perfectly legal, made him a ouisance to the establishment. So they offered him immunity from prosecution, provided Tone would quit the country. Tone accepted and went to Philadelphia. He soon hated America, mainly on snobbish grounds, and he cootacted the French ambassador. This set him on the road that was to lead, three years later, to his death in a British jail in Dublin, in 1798, and to his status as the proto-martyr and hero of Irish republicanism.

What would have happened to Tone if his French comrades had conquered Ireland (something that only the weather averted in 1796)? Tone would have been happy enough perhaps for the first six years, as the leading *patriote* in a sister republic, which was the French revolutionary euphemism for a tributary protectorate. But, after 1802 when Napoleon became Emperor of the French, those

Tintin visits the land of words

FOR CHILDREN

Martin Spence

TINTIN ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY
Harrap, £12.95

Is it a Christmas present, is it a language laboratory, is it a user support system, is it a Tintin adventure? Blistering barnacles! This exceptionally good value, bilingual dictionary is everything and, yes, it's fun. In one sense, it is conventional. The approach to language is totally grammatical, with unavoidable old friends like tenses, conjugations, and verbs in party mood. Here is the basic vocabulary you are bound to meet in your first few years of learning French. But, sensibly, there are not too many party guests. The meanings and translations are the most common and the most important: and they are rightly given in order of frequence of occurrence. Colour-packed frames from Tintin's adventures show the words in action.

But, unlike most visual *dictionnaires*, which simply take the French words and illustrate them with a 1:1 picture, this one works both ways. First, it takes English words and turns them into French, with illustrations still captioned in English. Then, after a workmanlike wodge of grammar, comes French-into-English with French-captioned pictures. That, surely, is the natural progression as you learn a language. And, taking well-loved Tintin frames, recaptioned here for their new function, the Anglo-French editors have geared them to the European, not the British, approach to language: 1992 is nigh. Out goes Thatcherite xenophobia, English-as-world-language excuses, and exchange visits where British children are silent after five years' teaching.

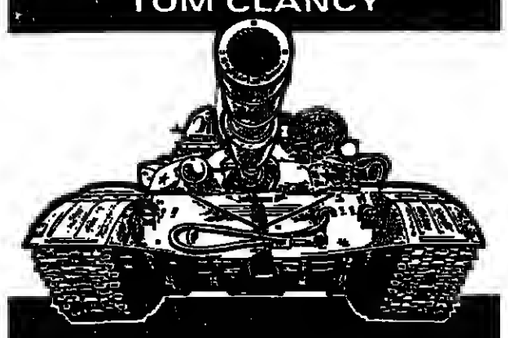
In comes application in teaching and learning. In comes this inviting book. There are no short cuts. The Europeans have always known this. That is why they speak such excellent English.

With one pardonable exception, the grammar section exemplifies this elementary truth. The editors have included the past historic tense which, as they rightly say, is never used when speaking; but ignore the subjunctive for practical purposes until it suddenly pops up in a useful example on page 6. Thundering typhoons!

But what a joy to have a big and beautiful dictionary like this in your Christmas stocking. A dictionary where *Avez-vous la plume de ma tante?* has been remodelled for the 1990s as *Les singes ont pris le fusil du capitaine*, with the additioo of a manic frame of chortling monkeys. Where Captain Haddock says "Sniff sniff" to a helpful explanation of why the French have to have more than one word for "smell". Where the difference between the two senses of *croissant* is mediated by the desert moon and Tintin's breakfast. And where, in true Johnsonian fashion, "bark" is defined not by reference to a tree, but to a carefully chosen remark of Snowy's.

Haddock: transcending language

"A direct hit! The techno-thriller has a new ace, and his name is Larry Bond"
TOM CLANCY



RED PHOENIX
LARRY BOND
A tense and thundering epic of modern war torn out of tomorrow's headlines.
OUT NOW!
£13.95
Macdonald
a member of Maxwell Macmillan Pergamon Publishing Corporation

KNOCKED OUT BY TYSON
DELUGED ON THE GRIDIRON
DRAGGED AROUND BADMINTON
A SPORTSWRITER'S YEAR
SIMON BARNES
'A delightfully written, whimsical insight'
Steve Pinder, *Independent*
Behind the scenes, beyond the headlines, a revealing picture of the world of sport.

£12.95
WILLIAM HEINEMANN

Lives on the front lines

Tim Heald

THE SWORD AND THE PEN
A Selection of Military Diaries
Edited by Michael Brander
Leo Cooper, £14.95

Don't mock Newbolt, or scoff at Kipling. When the chips were down, the desert red with the wreck of a broken square, Gatling jammed, Colonel dead, then Englishmen's jaws jutted, lips stiffened, and they were men, my son. On March 15, 1810, in the Peninsular War, Lieutenant George Simmons, who had trained as a doctor before enlisting, recorded: "Major Stewart, as many others have done, asked if he was mortally wounded. I told him he was. He thanked me and died the day following." A month later at dawn Simmons found his old friend Major O'Hare lying dead in the breaches of Badajoz. "Just before he marched off to lead the advance he shook me by the hand, saying: 'A Lieutenant-Colonel or cold meat in a few hours'."

A few years earlier, in India, Lieutenant John Pester wrote in his diary that "Sinclair had no less than 10 shot holes in his hat! The wound in my shoulder was by no means deep, as the weapon ran up under the skin and came out upon the top of the shoulder; a musket shot passed through the cuff of my jacket and took a little of the skin of my arm with it. As soon as I was able to collect the men, I paraded my Company." A hundred years later at Passchendaele the sang was still froid. Lieutenant Edwin Vaughan looked down on the Yser Canal, which was "a dark-green swamp wherein lay corpses of men and bodies of horses". Then he hurried away and: "Our cookers now rolled up and the cooks carried a hot meal over . . . For my part I had lost my fear now and in spite of the imminent attack and the fearful mass below me, I ate a hearty breakfast of sausages and bacon."

These examples are taken from the war diaries of young men, seven in all, who wrote about their experiences in battle between the beginning of the 19th and 20th centuries. The collection celebrates 21 years of military publishing by Leo Cooper, who has produced about 500 titles. Some of these — Cooper mentions Lewin on Slim, Williams on Byng, Lord Anglesey on the cavalry, and Judge Babington on courts martial — have been good and some, he concedes, bad.

This anniversary volume comes comfortably into the good category. There isn't one dud between the rollicking Pester ("killed 23 brace of snipe . . . dined at MacKaulay's . . . paid them the compliment of pushing the bottle handsomely") and the uncomfortable Vaughan ("Soon a line of figures appeared running out of the shelled zone; immediately our machine guns opened and mowed them down. I felt terribly sorry for them, for they looked very new and untried and I was so tired and weary myself.")

Pride of place goes to Simmons in the Peninsular, a vivid writer, a brave and thoughtful man and bolshy to boot. His spats with the appalling General Crauford are reminiscent of Simon Raven's Fingel dealing with his difficult brigadier. Crauford is rather gratifyingly blown up after an altercation with Simmons over the correct length of storming ladders. Simmons is wounded at Orthez when his "noble servant Henry Short . . . came running to me; and with an oath observed, 'You shall not hit him again except through my body' and deliberately placed himself in front of me." At Waterloo a musket ball broke two ribs and passed clean through his liver. But he was kitted out with a corset and lived on to 72 years of age. An authentic hero.

There are blood, toil, tears and sweat in abundance on these pages, plus horror, waste and, in all the writers, more or less, an anaesthetized acceptance of these things. The authenticity is salutary and moving, a demonstration that war for the young changes very little.

As far as publishing is concerned, this anniversary book suggests that small, if not exactly beautiful, can at least survive.

Power politics, to the fore

THRILLERS

Michael Hartland

A SONG AT TWILIGHT
By Bryan Forbes
Collins, £12.95

A Song At Twilight is set in a future where Margaret Thatcher has been tipped out of office to chair a chain of supermarkets. Power is seized by Labour's left wing — covertly controlled by the Soviet military intelligence service or GRU which, inspired by *Spycatcher*, has contrived to subvert both the new Prime Minister and the head of MI6. The plot becomes even less convincing as the GRU's General Abramov, irritated by his quisling's failure to back Moscow, schemes to get rid of the PM by promoting financial scandal and IRA outrages. When these fail he has him assassinated to the strains of "Land of Hope and Glory" at the last night of the Proms. Can disgraced spook Alec Hillsden unmask the remaining traitor in time for Right to Prevail?

Despite this demented scenario, Bryan Forbes has written a novel that compels by deft observation of character and detail. Two coppers on the way to examine a corpse in Hyde Park snigger at last night's TV programme on the Californian quest for eternal youth:

"You wouldn't credit the lengths they go to. They had a plastic surgeon on who'd remade his wife like a human Lego kit. Took bits off her arse, had a go at the old hooter, siliconed her tits and sucked about a hundred-weight of fat out of her thighs." Jenkins whistled through his teeth, impressed at last.

Seconds later they are both blown to pieces by a terrorist booby-trap: one of many scenes that add a gritty authenticity. Forbes has the narrative power to write a really top-flight thriller. This isn't it — but it's a lot better than most.

● **The Warbirds**, by Richard Herman (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95). We meet Lieutenant Jackson Locke of the US Air Force at a party in Egypt, dancing naked on a table with his ambassador's daughter. Then he shoots down a Libyan MiG that is trying to destroy a transport plane on famine relief. The Middle East plunges into crisis, Soviet peace overtures evaporate, and the superpowers find themselves in a stand-off that could lead to war in Iran.

A refreshing change from trench coats in dark alleys — this is the sharp end, with vivid descriptions of air combat, the smell of hot oil and fear.

Richard Herman captures the engaging simplicity of service life; our hero may be a prat, but he risks death with courage, and chucks his nubile 18-year-old for "an earth mother built for comfort". *The Warbirds*'s aims are more modest than those of many thrillers these days, but well realized.

● **Safe House**, by Derek Kartun (Century, £11.95). Alfred Baum of the DST (French counter-intelligence) is the Maigret of espionage — gloomily Gallic, dyspeptic, put upon by incompetent superiors. He faces a classic dilemma. Is defector Alexei Kostov genuine or a plant? A whiskery theme, but given bite because Kostov is fingering Antoine Lachaume, the minister who is Baum's boss, as a traitor... Lachaume has the respect of the entire French nation as a stud, so have photographs of his secret homosexuality exposed him to blackmail? The Parisian background is colourful, but what marks this out is Kartun's skill in building up the tensions between his delightfully rebarbative actors.

● **Contamination**, by Chapman Pincher (Sidgwick & Jackson, £12.95). Chapman Pincher is a good investigative journalist. The general ennui with his obsession about Sir Roger Hollis cannot erase the impact made by *Their Trade is Treachery* in 1981. Alas, having worn that threadbare, Pincher has now turned to fiction. Sex-kitten Dr Wendy Payne of Porton Down discovers a virus that will destroy silicon chips — a mortal threat to the computers that now control every government's defence systems. One might feel that nothing could be of greater benefit, but the discovery rapidly becomes a tool in a tortuous plot by the American president to maintain Gorbachov's even more liberal successor in power against the machinations of Soviet hardliners. The book starts well, bounding along at a crisp pace, but runs into the ground with a laboured plot and two-dimensional characters, short on humour, emotion, and excitement.

● **The Romeo Flag**, by Carolyn Hougan (Headline, £12.95). Neil Walker is a burnt-out CIA troubleshooter, Nicola Ward a Washington divorcée living only for her anorexic daughter. They are thrown together when he translates Nicola's box of mouldering documents about her parents, who died in wartime China. In an overkill of research, the author crams in Richard Sorge, the hideous Japanese medical experiments on prisoners in Manchuria and the last days of the Tsar in Ekaterinburg — all leading to a traitor in the White House. Hougan is an impressive new writer: a little too slow and predictable in this novel, but intriguing and with considerable human insight.

PAPERBACKS

New book of revelations

Karen Armstrong

THE LITERARY GUIDE TO THE BIBLE
Edited by Robert Alter and Frank Kermode
Fontana, £9.99

Jews and Christians have insisted that because the Bible was inspired by God, it cannot be interpreted like other books. The smallest detail can have divine significance and the Bible has been used to prove propositions and to explain events which its authors could not have imagined. Centuries of piety have made the Bible inaccessible to many modern readers, and *The Literary Guide to the Bible* is an attempt to demythologize the Good Book and to approach it as any other text.

Using the techniques of modern literary criticism, scholars have contributed essays on each of the major books of the Bible. Many of these are excellent; they restore authenticity to texts which have become over-familiar or devalued by narrow fundamentalism. Thus James Ackerman shows that the Book of Jonah is a poignant but witty satire of facile religiosity. Robert Alter examines the language of the psalms to show how skilfully they depict a world made ominous and immediate by faith. David Damrosch brilliantly explains Leviticus, which Christians find so daunting, as a moving struggle to recreate, by non-literary means, a metaphoric closeness with God in a fallen world.

Several contributors suggest that a literary approach to the Bible is more fruitful than conventional historical exegesis, which can get in the way of the text. But literary criticism has its own obfuscatory techniques. In J. B. Fokkelman's essay on Genesis, for example, the marvellous stories vanish in a thick, critical fog. He is not the only contributor to interpose himself and his methodology between us and the Bible.

In his fascinating essay "Midrash and Allegory", Gerald Bruns argues that some modern criticism is alien to the spirit of biblical writers. They did not see the scriptures as complete, but as open-ended writings to be constantly invested with new meaning. Pharisaic and rabbinic Judaism did not analyse scripture to discern the authors' intentions, but believed interpretation and commentary were as authoritative as the texts themselves. Early Jewish Christians rewrote biblical history to make Jesus its fulfilment.

Gabriel Josipovici argues that they thereby distorted and diluted those writings that were later called the "Old Testament". In his essay on the Epistle to the Hebrews, he shows that the Jewish scriptures had been content to affirm that there *was* meaning, without defining this too closely, but the New Testament writers insisted they knew exactly what that meaning was. Their single-minded approach inevitably drained the Hebrew stories of rich ambiguity and complexity, but this did not mean the New Testament presented a homogenous message. It included rival theologies, some of which could disturb Christians today.

Thus most Christians agree with Paul that Jesus abrogated the Law of Moses and do not, therefore, keep the Jewish Sabbath and the dietary laws. But Frank Kermode demonstrates in an important essay that throughout the gospel of Matthew, Jesus insists on a more strict observance of Torah than most Jews of his day. In two exciting essays, John Drury shows that Mark and Luke are equally challenging. Mark presents Jesus as a folktale hero, who blasphemously attacks official religion with a vehemence that would horrify the Christian establishment today. Luke's view of Jesus is closer to Muslim teaching than Christian orthodoxy: as in the Koran, Jesus is seen as a Jewish prophet, not the incarnate Son of God.

In the face of this deliberate inconsistency, dogmatic and aggressive interpretations of the Bible are absurd. *The Literary Guide to the Bible* will not please those who seek fundamentalist certainty in scripture. Indeed, it is a remarkable demonstration of the way the Bible eschews narrow definitions of orthodoxy by allowing discordant theologies to co-exist and interact fruitfully. The *Guide* also fulfils its objective by showing that there is a deep relationship between literature and religion, despite their obvious differences. Art and religion both attempt a constant creation of meaning, which cannot be achieved by an irritable straining after facts and reason, or confined by sectarian insecurity.

Old gold in new settings

FICTION

Lisanne Radice

THE CROOKED HINGE
By John Dickson Carr
Xanadu, £3.99

THE DETECTIONS OF DR SAMUEL JOHNSON
By Lillian de la Torre
Xanadu, £3.99

THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES
Edited by Sebastian Wolfe
Xanadu, £3.99

"Poetry of modern life; the portrayal of paradoxes; highly ingenious puzzles; heights of craftsmanship and virtuosity; works of art." These are among the claims put forward by Xanadu, publisher of a new series of Great Detective mysteries. Are they justified?

There are considerable problems in resurrecting or aping "Golden Age" crime fiction, not least the question of language, of attitudes and beliefs, and of accepted behaviour. And when one adds the structural weakness of the classic crime mystery, its one-dimensional reliance on clever ratiocination, the difficulties of achieving a publishing success are clear.

The modern reader, accustomed to psychological insights, the evolution of characters and the questioning of moral orthodoxies, finds it difficult to accept a mere logical unravelling of carefully placed clues and red herrings.

There are ways of getting round these dilemmas. The publishers can provide their Great Detective with a suitable historical background, so that authenticity is the most important consideration for the discerning few. They can ask the reader to applaud the brilliance of a modern pastiche, or the subtleties of a clever parody, or, the most successful option, they can reissue a Thirties mystery which, despite inherent flaws, can still engage the reader's interest.

John Dickson Carr's *The Crooked Hinge* was published in 1938, and is still a marvellously satisfying read. It has everything a crime fiction punter could ask for; a skilfully unravelled plot; a larger-than-life eccentric Great Detective; a gentle infusion of romance, and macabre and mysterious events. In effect, a brilliant pot-pourri of happenings which provide a tale that is both exotic and yet steeped in the comfortable tradition of the English country house mystery.

Lillian de la Torre, in *The Detections of Dr Samuel Johnson*, has opted for the historical solution. Her detective is Dr Johnson, his chronicler, as ever, James Boswell. The emphasis here, surprisingly, is not so much on Johnson's logical elucidation of cleverly presented clues, but rather on the quirks and eccentricities of 18th-century society. This is a pastiche which relies on the reader's ability to suspend belief in the great lexicographer as a man of culture and sedentary habit and accept him as a swashbuckling hero. The crime fiction addict, hoping for a rational appraisal of carefully placed clues, will want his money back.

Parodies, burlesques, and "unofficial" adventures make up the contents of *The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Comic crime fiction is difficult to achieve, partly because of the nature of detective mysteries — murder is rarely amusing — and partly because readers expect more than humour. So, despite a galaxy of famous names which include P. G. Wodehouse, Stephen Leacock and H. R. F. Keating, this collection of short stories doesn't come off, being neither particularly funny nor outrageous enough for the serious connoisseur of the logical explanation for illogical events.

In trivial pursuit of Elvis

David Sinclair

ELVIS: HIS LIFE FROM A TO Z
By Fred L. Worth & Steve D. Tamerius
Corgi, £12.95

When a life has been as well-documented as Elvis Presley's, any attempt to broaden the scope of the inquiry is bound to end up exploring the realms of trivia. This massive volume, which claims to list "every known fact about the King of rock 'n' roll" tackles its brief with such systematic fanaticism that the results, at times, border on the surreal.

In the first section, "Elvis — The Man", there are alphabetic entries on everyone and everything related to Presley; from his great-great-great-great-great-grandfather Andrew Presley, who emigrated from Scotland to America in 1745, to Puff, Lisa Marie Presley's pet cat.

No detail is considered too mundane or too tenuously linked to warrant inclusion. The only relevance of a brief biography of the actor Zero Mostel turns out to be that he was "one of several celebrities who died around the time of Elvis's death (see Groucho Marx, Sebastian Cabot)".

The relentless barrage of minutiae embraces everything from the number of Elvis's bank account, to his neck size, to his favourite board games (Monopoly and Scrabble) to the fact that on July 29, 1967, his record "Long Legged Girl" was reviewed on *Juke Box Jury* by panellists Engelbert Humperdinck, Lulu, Ted Ray and Beverley Adams — who voted it a hit.

The second section, "Elvis — The Performer", lists chronologically every concert Presley is known to have played, and gives full cast details together with copious incidental information on every film made by or about him.

The final section, "Elvis — His Music", returns to the alphabetical format to furnish extraordinarily detailed accounts of the provenance of every song he is known to have performed, recorded or not.

The American authors — whose portfolios already bulge with such titles as *The Complete Unabridged Super Trivia Encyclopedia* and *How to Make a Fortune on TV Game Shows* — have brought a scrupulous tenacity to bear on their Herculean task, and the sections on Presley's music, films and live performances provide a reliable and valuable reference work on the most popular mass-market entertainer of all time.

But the book tends to be weighed down with facts at the expense of any sort of critical insight. We learn that *The Trouble With Girls* was the only Presley film to be given a subtitle (*And How To Get Into It*), but there is nothing to indicate whether it was a better or worse production than *Jailhouse Rock*.

Occasionally, when it is unavoidable, the authors dip their toes in the hot water of controversy, as with the entry on Presley's manager Colonel Tom Parker, a man widely regarded as venality incarnate. They accuse Parker of not guiding Presley's career with sufficient wisdom or sensitivity, but feel constrained to add, in a footnote, "Although we . . . personally feel that Elvis's career could have been more spectacular than it was, how does one argue with success?"

Similarly, how does one argue with a volume like this, since its all-consuming, encyclopaedic nature is nothing if not a pure reflection of the singularly overwhelming nature of Presley's success?

In among the flotsam there are nuggets that provide genuine insights into the life of a man who could never have known more than a tiny fraction of this much about himself. The reproduction of a letter which Presley wrote to the then President Nixon in a shaky, spidery scrawl offering to bring his in-depth knowledge of "drug abuse and communist brainwashing techniques" to bear on solving the American nation's problems, is plainly the work of a confused, childishly well-intentioned man.

Apparently, Presley's last words, in reply to his girlfriend's admonition not to fall asleep in the bathroom, were: "OK, I won't".

Systematic fanaticism: Presley at the height of his powers, aged 21 in 1956

Seduced by siren song

Peter Jones

AN ODYSSEY ROUND ODYSSEUS
By Beaty Rubens and Oliver Taplin
BBC, £10.99

[illegible]ple have been swanning round [illegible]sseus for 2,700 years. The salty [illegible]century BC Homeric hero, [illegible]se determination always to [illegible]l on his own two feet (preferably [illegible]ing landed on someone else's [illegible]) gives a tangy, double edge to [illegible]heroic efforts to reclaim his [illegible]m, has subsequently undergone [illegible]sformations worthy of Circe: [illegible]genius, Christian martyr, eter[illegible] wanderer, Leopold Bloom. Kirk [illegible]glas, vaccination mark well to [illegible]fore, gave a memorably hilar[illegible] account of him in *Ulisse* [illegible]94).

[illegible]ubens-Taplin do not break new [illegible]nd in their *Odyssey*, but that is [illegible] the point. Their purpose is to [illegible] Homer's *Odyssey* in all its [illegible]ous twists and turns — how [illegible] the man himself — accessible to [illegible] who wish to explore it. With [illegible] minor qualification, it can be [illegible]sidered a great success.

[illegible]ubens-Taplin get off, and stay, [illegible] the right foot by making the [illegible] firmly text-based, in a strong, [illegible]thmical translation, with cae[illegible] and para-Harrisonian alliterat[illegible] ("Surely no one human is [illegible]ing your flocks by force?/ [illegible]ly no one's slaughtering yon by [illegible]kery or battery?"). As various [illegible]odes are told through a [illegible]bination of translation and [illegible]ation, the authors turn aside to [illegible]sider later responses to them. [illegible]mer, consequently, is set side-[illegible]ide with du Bellay, Tennyson, [illegible]kespeare, Cavafy, Seferis, Joyce [illegible] last three feature very prominently) on the literary side, and Tibaldi, Poynter, Leighton, and most commonly Fuseli on the artistic. The text is superbly illustrated with maps and photographs as well as reproductions, many in colour, and the splendid design format makes it a pleasure to handle and read: a real siren of a book.

But the book's greatest pleasure is its sureness of touch. The Michael Woods of this world seem to spend half their time trying to persuade themselves (and us) that they really know something about the subject in hand. Rubens-Taplin know the *Odyssey* backwards, and have no need to labour the point: page after page of intelligent observation is offered to the reader without fuss or assurance that they really have consulted the world's top experts. This is popularization at its best.

My one reservation is that the enterprise occasionally leans towards the self-indulgent (too many holiday snaps of romantic vistas), or the sentimental ("As we sat in the limpid light of evening . . ."), or even the patronizing ("Two separate Odysseuses? [that is, the adventurer and the stay-at-home.] We believe most women and men have both within them . . ."). I suggest that more attention to problems and arguments (*à la* Wood) could have remedied the tendency. Only two central problems are raised — how were the poems performed? Did Homer use as locations the sites we know as Troy and Ithaca? — and the answers are asserted rather than argued. Malaysian and Javan evidence that the *Odyssey* was performed in two enormous recitations offers no convincing parallel, and while it may be true that Homer knew "our" Troy and Ithaca and, taking different elements of their landscapes, reworked them into his personal poetic vision, the man is a poet, he has a tradition, and an imagination. Do we assume Sophocles had to visit Lesbos before he could create Philoctetes's island? More spice from Rubens-Taplin on these and other issues would have made the repast even more delicious.

At the end of Plato's *Republic*, Socrates tells how Er returned to life and reported everything he had seen in the underworld. When it came to Odysseus's turn to choose a new life for himself, Er said, "the memory of his former sufferings had cured him of all ambition and he looked around a long time to find the uneventful life of an ordinary man". But I'll bet he's buying copies of Rubens-Taplin for all his friends.

[illegible]weet was the song: Odysseus resists the temptation of an Edwardian vision of sirens, by Herbert Draper

Dillons lower book prices.

(We think you'll read them with pleasure.)

Miller's Antiques Price Guide	£16.95	£12.95
Hamlyn New All Colour Cookbook	£5.99	£4.50
The 20th Century, The Pictorial History	£14.95	£11.95
The Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told	£7.99	£5.95
The Hamlyn Road Atlas of Great Britain	£8.95	£6.95
Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery	£10.95	£8.50
The Complete Birdwatcher	£17.95	£13.95
Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book	£5.95	£4.50

DILLONS THE BOOKSTORE

A PENTOS COMPANY

Europe's finest bookstores are in Bloomsbury London, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardiff, Exeter, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Southampton, Wolverhampton and stores nationwide. Also Athena Bookshops.

01-481 1920

ENTERTAINMENTS

01-481 1920

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

TEL/CC 01-928 8800 FIRST CALL 01-240 7200 Bkg fee

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 16 Dec 3.00 & 7.30 — **HOSPITALS' CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS** Massed Choirs from London Hospitals. Charles Farncombe (cond). Marisa Robles (harp). 3pm £2 £3 £4.50 £6.50. 7.30pm £2 £3 £4.50 £6.50. RETURNS ONLY. Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children

Sun 17 Dec 3.15 — **GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** London Concert Orchestra. Philip Simms (cond). Prof. of choral & orch music by Bach, Franck, Clarke, Purcell, Handel, Schubert, Bizet, Berlioz and Carols for choirs and audience. £14 £12 £10 £8 £6 (£1 DISCOUNT). Hammond Cuthbert Ltd

Sun 17 Dec 7.00 — **THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Sir Georg Solti (cond). Joan Rodgers (sop) Jard van Nes (contr) Keith Lewis (ten) Gwynne Howell (bass) The London Philharmonic Choir. Handel Messiah. RETURNS ONLY. London Philharmonic Enterprises

Mon 18 Dec 7.30 — **THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY** BBC Symphony Orchestra. Andrew Davis (cond) Dmitri Sitkovetsky (vln) Prokofiev Suite Lieutenant Kijé. Shostakovich Violin Concerto No. 1. Stravinsky Pulcinella. £11 £7.50 £10 £7.50 £5 £3.50. RPS

Tue 19 Dec 7.00 — **THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Sir Georg Solti (cond). Joan Rodgers (sop) Jard van Nes (contr) Keith Lewis (ten) Gwynne Howell (bass) The London Philharmonic Choir. Handel Messiah. RETURNS ONLY. London Philharmonic Enterprises

Wed 20 Dec 7.30 — **ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Sir Charles Mackerras (cond) Valerie Masterson (sop) Della Jones (contr) Philip Langridge (ten) Robert Lloyd (bass) Huddersfield Choral Society. Handel Messiah. RETURNS ONLY. RPO Ltd

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 16 Dec 7.45 — **THE MUSIC OF DIX BEIDERBECKE** Guy Barker (trumpet) with Keith Nichols and his Orchestra. One of Britain's finest trumpeters plays the music of Bix Beiderbecke and his New Orleans contemporaries. £6 £5 £4 £3 £2. Michael Watson Promotions

Sun 17 Dec 3.00 — **BEETHOVEN BIRTHDAY CONCERT** Bernard Roberts (pno) Thea King (clar) Nicholas Daniel (ob) Robin O'Neill (bsn) Jonathan Williams (hrn) Peter Cartler (vln) Patrick Ireland (vln) Mary Scully (vla) Raphael Wallfisch (vlc) Thomas Carr (db). £11 £7.50 £4 £4.50 £3. London Sinfonietta Chamber Music

Sun 17 Dec 7.45 — **DMITRI ALEXEEV** (piano) International Piano Series. Schumann Fantasiestücke Op 26 Carnaval. Chopin 3 Mazurkas. Sonata No 3 in B minor. £6 £5 £4 £3 £2 (£1 DISC). Harold Holt Limited South Bank Centre

Mon 18 Dec 7.45 — **ENGLISH BARGUE SOLOISTS** John Eliot Gardiner (conductor). Steven Isserlis (cello). Mozart Symphony No 41 (Jupiter). Haydn Cello Concerto in C. Mozart Symphony No 40. £17.50 £14 £12.50 £10 £7.50 £5. Montewerdi Choir & Orchestra

Thu 21 Dec 7.45 — **CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE** City of London Choir. Fantasia Brass. Donald Cashmore (conductor) John Birch (organ). Traditional Christmas music. £7 £6 £5 £4 £3. RETURNS ONLY. City of London Choir

Fri 22 Dec 7.45 — **LCO IN CONCERT: THE GREAT SERENADES** London Chamber Orchestra. Christopher Warren-Green (cond) Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings. Suk Serenade Op 6. Dvorak Serenade for Strings. £11.50 £9 £7 £5. London Chamber Orchestra

PURCELL ROOM

Sat 16 Dec 3.15 — **Lucie and Roddy Shoaring's MUSICAL MYSTERY TOUR** Be a musical caveman! Blow on a crumhorn! A live introduction to early music for children and families. Amusing, stimulating and informative. £3 (£2). Concerts for Children

Sat 16 Dec 8.00 — **NANCY VUIEN** (soprano) **ANDREW WEST** (piano). Programme includes Bronns Five Songs, Op 106 Brillen Winter Worlds Cycle and a recital: Mozart, Strauss and Poulenc. £6 £5 £4 £3 £2. Kaufman Concert Society Ltd

Sun 17 Dec 8.00 — **THE DUFAY COLLECTIVE** Mary's Own Troubador. Erotic instruments, love songs and music from the famous 15th century Spanish Court of Alfonso the Wise, perhaps from Cantigas de Santa Maria. French & English estampies & dances. £6 £5 £4 £3. Dufay Collective

Mon 18 Dec 8.00 — **DRAGONSFIRE** A Christmas Blessing Bunch. A traditional custom celebrated in music, dance & song, bringing together seasonal times & temperaments, the delicate of the vocal harmony, humour, costume and ritual ceremony of Christmas. £6 £3.50. Dragonsfire

Tue 19 Mon 8.00 — **CAMERA OPERA GROUP** Once upon a tempo a musical journey from the opera house to the drawing room. £7 £5 £4 £3 £2. Camera Opera Group

Wed 20 Dec 8.00 — **MANUEL VILLET** (piano). Liszt Sonata in B minor. Schumann Die Davidsbündler Op 6. Beethoven Sonata in F Op 10 No 1 (Hammerklavier). £6 £5 £3. Manuel Villet

Thu 21 Dec 8.00 — **DIVINE COMESTIC MUSIC FOR THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS** Rose Consort of Viols. Red Byrd. The story of the Nativity and through various carols, consort songs and other music together with readings from the Gospel according to Luke. £4.50 £3. Rose Consort of Viols

Fri 22 Dec 8.00 — **THE BEKOVA SISTERS TRIO** Rachmaninov Elegiac Trio in G minor. Shostakovich Piano Trio No 1 in C minor Op 67. Brahms Piano Trio No 1 in C minor Op 101. £7 £5 £3. Julia Green

The South Bank Centre presents

The Chamber Orchestra of Europe

BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS 2, 4 & 5

BRITTEN Prelude and Fugue, Op.29

Queen Elizabeth Hall

MONDAY 15 JANUARY at 7.45pm

£5, £7.50, £10, £12.50, £15 Box Office CC 01-928 8800

Sponsored by The Chase Manhattan Bank N.A.

British TELECOM **British Telecom**

CHRISTMAS CHARITY CAROL CONCERT

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 7 pm

GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION

Conductor BRIAN WRIGHT

Special guests include

Richard Stilgoe & Peter Skellern

£12.50, £10, £7, £5, £3.50 Box Office CC 01-589 8212/9465

Special rates for children & students

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY

conductor: **LASZLO HELTAY**

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Fanfare Trumpeters of H.M. Royal Marines C-in-C Fleet

John Birch organ

FRI 22 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

THE CAPITAL RADIO CAROL CONCERT

with the WREN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SAT. 23 DECEMBER at 2.30 pm

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL with ROLF HARRIS & SCHOOL CHORS

SAT. 23 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

"Pas de deux" from SWAN LAKE with MARTIN JAMES & JANETTE MULLIGAN

Tickets £3.50 - £12.50 from Hall 01-589 8212/CC 01-589 9465

Saturday Festival sponsored by BRAUN U.K.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 cc 240 5258 **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Ton't 7.30 (last perf) **MADAM BUTTERFLY**. Tue 7.30 **THE LOVE FOR 3 ORANGES**.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 01 928 8800 cc **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET** Peter Schaufuss' production of THE NUTCRACKER 26 Dec - 20 Jan

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 1066/1911. Subty mtn 836 6903. S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day. Ton't 7.00 **THE ROYAL OPERA** Messiaen. Mon 7.30 **Der Freischutz**.

THEATRES

ADELPHI 836 7611 cc 240 7912 /4 CC 741 9999/ 836 7358/ 379 4444 First call 24hr cc 240 7200 (no bkg fee) Groups 930 6123 NOW BOOKING TO APR 7 1990 ME AND MY GIRL THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL. Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00 **"THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN"** Sunday Express

ALBERY 867 1116 cc 867 1111 379 4444 (No bkg fee)741 9999 240 7200 (Bkg fee) Grps 867 1113 BEST MUSICAL SWET Award 1983 WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS "ASTONISHING...A Milestone in British Musicals" S Exp ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 EXTRA PERF DEC 27 AT 3

ALDWYCH CC 379 6233 836 0641 /6404 Evenings at 7.30. Mats Wed 3.0 Saturdays 4.0 & 8.0 JUDI DENCH RONALD PICKUP BERNARD HILL THE CHERRY ORCHARD by CHEKHOV. Trans MICHAEL FRAYN "AN ADMIRABLE PRODUCTION ... THE WHOLE THING LIFTED ME SIX FEET OFF THE GROUND AND HELD ME THERE, ENTHRALLED" S.Correspondent.

ALMEIDA THEATRE 359 4404 Till 23 Dec CHEEK BY JOWL in LADY BETTY "Thrilling musical play" Obs. Eves 8pm Sat Mats 4pm

AMBASSADORS 01-836 6111/2 cc 836 1171. CC with bkg fee 240 7200/741 9999/379 4444 Group Sales 930 6123. Air Cond Eves 7.30. Wed mat 3. Sat 4 & 8 LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK

APOLLO 01-437 2663 cc 01-379 4444/741 9999 (with bkg fee) 01-240 7200 Grps 01-930 6123 PETER O'TOOLE JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL by Keith Waterhouse Directed by Ned Sherrin "AN OUTRIGHT WINNER" Eve Std. "PETER O'TOOLE IS MAGNIFICENT" F.T. Mon-Fri 8.30. Sat 6.30 & 8.45

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Groups 828 6188 CC Open All Hours 379 4444 1st Call 240 7200 K Prowse 741 9999 Groups 930 6123 Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0 SIXTH HIT YEAR! STARLIGHT EXPRESS Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE Directed by TREVOR NUNN SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK OAP's £5 on Tues Mats NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '90

ARTS 836 2132 cc 379 4444 From £7.50 A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT "I ENJOYED MYSELF!" Guardian Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.30

BARBICAN THEATRE 01-638 8891 cc (Mon-Sun 9am-8pm) **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM 16 -28 Dec. Eves 7.30. Thurs & Sat Mats 2.00 No perf 23, 24, 26 Dec. Family tkts avail. **THE FIT** Today 2.00 & 7.30 **ROMEO AND JULIET**.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE Earlham St. WC2 01-379 5299 CC 379 4444 (No Bkg Fee) 240 7200/741 9999 (Bkg Fee) Groups 240 7941 RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Shakespeare's Forgotten Rock-and-Roll Masterpiece "SEE ONE SHOW THIS CHRISTMAS ... SEE FORBIDDEN PLANET" Sunday Sundas LWT Mon-Fri 8 Thu Mat 3 (not 28 Dec) Sat 6.0 & 8.30 Special Xmas perfs 27 & 29 Dec 3pm 26 Dec 8pm

COMEDY 01 930 2578/8778 cc 839 1438/741 9999 or 24hr with bkg fee 240 7200/379 4444 Grps 930 6123/240 7941 Mon-Fri 8pm, Wed at 3pm, Sat 5.45pm Prevs Today & Monday OPENS TUESDAY AT 7PM Quintessential Coward PATRICIA HODGE SIMON CADELL NOEL & GERTIE The very particular love story of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence devised by Sheridan Morley with Jonathan Cohen directed by Alan Strachan Words and Music by NOEL COWARD

DOMINION 01-580 9562 Open All Hours 01-379 4444 (24 hrs) (bkg fee) Group Sales Box Office 01-930 6123 CCTB 01-741 9999 (bkg fee). MICHAEL BARRYMORE in ALADDIN with FRANK BRUNO All Star Show Opens Dec 18th for 6 weeks

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg Fee) 24hr 7 days 379 4444/240 7200 Grps 831 8625 MISS SAIGON BEST MUSICAL Eve Std Drama Awards 1989 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Check daily for returns. A few balcony seats usually avail. Good seats avail for some Wed Mats Latecomers not admitted until the interval NEW BOOKING PERIOD: MARCH - JUNE '90 POSTAL BOOKINGS ONLY MAT FRI 29 DEC RESCHEDULED TO JAN 5 CALL 01-836 8108 FOR DETAILS NO A FEW GOOD SEATS STILL AVAIL FOR EXTRA XMAS PERF 3PM FRI 22 DEC

DUKE OF YORKS 836 6122 cc 836 9837 cc 240 7200/379 4444/741 9999 Grps 836 6123 COMEDY OF THE YEAR Olivier Awards 1988 PAULA WILCOX in WILLY RUSSELL'S "GEM" SHIRLEY VALENTINE Eves 8 Mats Thu & Sat 8 "The audience roars approval. Shirley's spell is unbreakable" D. Mail "The funniest & the most heartwarming play for years" O M EXTRA PERFS DEC 26 & JAN 2 AT 3

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 836 2238 24hr cc bkg fee 240 7200 CHARLES KAY DOMINIC LETTS Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Gdn "CHILLING" Ind "GRIPPING" FT "FIRST RATE" Ind OVER 350 PERFORMANCES! Eves 8 Mats Tues 3 Sat 4 NOW BOOKING TO MAR '90

Fortune Covent Garden. WC2. IDEAL FOR 3-9 YR. OLDS FATHER CHRISTMAS AND THE LOST TOTS Seats from Dec 26, mats daily £4-£8.50. Booking 01-836 2238

GARRICK Box Office/cc 01-379 6107 cc (an bkg fee) 01-836 3464/379 4444/741 9999 Royal Court Theatre's Production of OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD BEST PLAY Olivier Awards 1988 Mon-Thur 8.00 Fri & Sat 6.00 + 8.15. Fri 8.00 ALL SEATS £7.50

GLOBE THEATRE 01 437 3667/741 9999/379 4444. First Call 836 3464 (bkg fee) Groups 930 6123. Eves 7.45. Sat Mat 3pm CAROLE SHELLEY HELEN RYAN MORAY WATSON IN LETTICE AND LOVAGE By PETER SHAFFER Dir MICHAEL BLAKEMORE BEST COMEDY '88 E.Std Award SIX WEEKS REMAINING

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 01 930 9832 cc 240 7200 / 379 4444 / 741 9999 bkg fee PAUL EDDINGTON ANGELA THORNE A Chichester Festival Theatre production of Dion Boucicault's sparkling comedy LONDON ASSURANCE Directed by Sam Mendes Eves 8 Mats Thu 3 Sat 4

HER MAJESTY'S Haymarket 839 2244 CC 24hr 379 4444 (bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA DAVE WILLETTS JILL ROBERT WASHINGTON MEADMORE Ifren Bartok plays Christine at certain performances. Directed by HAROLD PRINCE Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 Tickets available week nights June to September 1990 POSTAL APPLICATIONS ONLY

LONDON PALLADIUM Until Jan 27 Box Office & Credit Cards & Groups 437 7373 'ALLO 'ALLO SEVEN WEEKS ONLY! Mon-Fri 8pm. Sat 5.30 & 8.30pm Mat Wed 2.45pm PLUS EXTRA XMAS MATINEES Dec 26, 28, 29, Jan 1 2 at 2.45pm CC (Bkg fee) 240 7200 (24 hrs) /741 9999 / 379 4444

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave. 437 3686 Groups 930 6123 cc 01 379 4444 /741 9999/(bkg fee) 240 7200 Sheila Hancock PRIN with SUSIE BLAKE By Andrew Davies Directed by Richard Wilson "EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT" What's On. Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 4.30 & 8.15 Wed Mat 3.00

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 01-741 2311 cc bkg fee 01 836 3464 Prevs Grit Rhys Jones Dinsdale Landen Hugh Lloyd in THARK by Ben Travers Vintage Farce Evgs 7.45pm Mats Wed 2.30 Sat 4.00pm Studio 01 741 8701 ATC in Marivaux's The Triumph of Love Last Perfs 2.30 & 8.0.

MAYFAIR 629 3037 cc 379 4444 SCOTT'S XMAS SHOW Sorry Sold Out! Please book now for next Xmas at the Bloomsbury Theatre 387 9629 cc 379 4444

MERMAID 236 5568 cc 379 4444/741 9999 (no bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123 "SUPERB FARCE" Time Out ROBIN KERMODE HILARY CROWSON and JILLY JOHNSON in FUNNY PECULIAR Mike Stott's outrageous comedy "Rip-Roaring Revival" S Mir Mon-Thur 8.00pm Fri & Sat 5.30 & 9.00pm (Daytime only) FRANK WINDSOR in Long John Silver in TREASURE ISLAND

NATIONAL THEATRE 01 928 2252 Grps 01 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee 240 7200 OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15 THE SHAUGHRAUN Boucicault. LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 SALOME Wilde. Mon 10.30 & 2.15 WHALE Holman. COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30 Mon 7.30 MA RAINEY Wilson.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 405 0072 CC 404 4079 OPEN ALL HOURS 379 4444. Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT MUSICAL CATS SEATS NOW AVAIL FOR EVE PERFS FEB 2 TUE MATS FROM JAN ONWARDS Group Bookings 01 930 6123 or 01 405 1567. NOW BKG TO 28TH APRIL 1990

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc (with bkg fee) 240 7200/379 4444/741 9999 Mon-Fri 7.30. Wed mat 2.30. Sat 4.00 & 7.30 THE LIAR by Corneille Director: Jonathan Miller

PALACE THEATRE 434 0909 24hrs cc 379 4444 (bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 Groups 494 1671 "THE SHOW OF ALL SHOWS" Newsweek LES MISERABLES THE MUSICAL SENSATION Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval "FIGHT TO GET A TICKET" LBC NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '90

PHOENIX THEATRE WC 2 "TREVOR NUNN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE LONDON THEATRE" S Times THE BAKER'S WIFE by Joseph Stein & Stephen Schwartz "FULL OF DELIGHT" Obs. "WONDERFULLY FUNNY" Ind 01-836 2294/240 9661 or cc with bkg fee 01-379 4444/741 9999/240 7200. Groups 01-930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thu & Sat mat 2.30

PRINCE EDWARD 734 8951 First Call 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 (bkg fee) 379 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 930 6123 ELAINE PAIGE BERNARD CRIBBINS JOHN A BARROWMAN in ANYTHING GOES "THE HOTTEST SHOW IN TOWN" Daily Express "I LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT IT" Daily Mail Choreographed by MICHAEL BENNETT Directed by JERRY ZAKS Eves 7.30 Mats Thur & Sat 2.30 SORRY CAST ALBUM AVAILABLE ON CBS FIRST NIGHT RECORDS NOW. No Perf Xmas Day

PRINCE OF WALES Box Office 01 839 5972 CC First Call 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 (bkg fee)/Open All Hours 379 6131 (bkg fee) 240 7200. Groups 01-930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thu & Sat mat 2.30 "WONDERFULLY FUNNY" Ind 01-836 2294/240 9661 or cc with bkg fee 01-379 4444/741 9999/240 7200. Groups 01-930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thu & Sat mat 2.30 ASPECTS OF LOVE "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S BEST" O Tel Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHARLES HART Directed by TREVOR NUNN Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 Queue daily for returns. Strictly no admittance for latecomers NOW BOOKING APR - SEPT '90

QUEENS SO 734 1166/379 4444 /741 9999/240 7200 AT NO BKG FEE GROUPS 930 6123 NIGEL JANE HAWTHORNE LAPOTAIRE "Masterly" Tms "Virtuoso" G'Tms SHADOWLANDS "Packed with emotional bombshells" T Out "Unbearably Moving" Std "A Joy to the End" DEx Eves 8.00 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN Box Office/CC 01-638 8891

TODAY at 3 p.m. **GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** A FEW SEATS AVAILABLE AT £13.50 & £12.50 ONLY ALL OTHERS SOLD For details see Barbican panel

TONIGHT at 8 p.m. **RICHARD STILGOE PETER SKELLERN** The masters of Piano & Wit return for a special performance of their highly acclaimed revue "Who Plays Wins?" "Irresistible, quickwitted and amusing" The Standard "Beguiling entertainers" Daily Telegraph £6.50, £8.50, £10.50, £12.50

TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m. **MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE BALLET** Programme incs. Tchaikovsky: Pas De Deux from Swan Lake; Theme & Variations; Grand Pas De Deux* and excerpts from The Nutcracker, Blue Bird Pas De Deux* from The Sleeping Beauty; Messager: Pas De Deux* from The Two Pigeons; Delibes: Magic Scene* from Coppelia; Herold: Clog Dance* from La Fille Mal Gardee. *These items will be danced ORCHESTRA OF SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET ANTHONY TWINER conductor MARION TAIT, KAREN DONOVAN, SHERILYN KENNEDY, MICHAEL O'HARE, KEVIN O'HARE, DAVID MORSE Principal dancers of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet Presented by arrangement with the Director of the Royal Opera House £7.50, £10.50, £13.50, £15.50, £17.50

WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m. **MOZART - VIVALDI** CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA Mozart ... MARRIAGE OF FIGARO OVERTURE Mozart ... EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK Mozart ... PIANO CONCERTO No. 21, K467 Vivaldi ... THE FOUR SEASONS Directed from the piano by IAN WATSON NICHOLAS WARD violin £6.50, £8.50, £10.50, £12.50, £14.50

WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m. **ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** PER DREIER cond. LORA DIMITROVA piano Rossini ... William Tell Overture Grieg ... Peer Gynt Suite No.1 Rachmaninov ... Piano Concerto No.2 Dvorák ... Symphony No.9 (New World) £7.50, £10, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m. **POPULAR CLASSICS** Johann Strauss: Die Fledermaus Overture; Sousa: Semper Fidelis; Sibelius: Finlandia; Grieg: Piano Concerto; Suppe: Light Cavalry Overture; Mascagni: Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana; Lehar: Gold And Silver Waltz; Elgar: Pomp And Circumstance March No.1; Ravel: Bolero LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA MARTIN ANDRE conductor GRAHAM SCOTT piano £7.50, £9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £15.50

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER at 3 p.m. **TCHAIKOVSKY** LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA JAMES BLAIR conductor JAMES LISNEY piano Sleeping Beauty Waltz - The Nutcracker Suite Piano Concerto No. 1 - Swan Lake Suite "1812" Overture with Cannon & Mortar Effects £6.50, £8.50, £10.50, £12.50, £14.50 Children under 16 half-price

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m. **THE SNOWMAN** Presented and narrated by ROY CASTLE Howard Blake, composer and creator of The Snowman, conducts the traditional Christmas performance of this children classic, together with the first public performance of his new film Granpa. His Nursery Rhyme Overture, with a new twist in its tail, completes the programme. SINFONIA OF LONDON conducted by HOWARD BLAKE EMILY OSBORNE, NICOLE TIBBELS & TERRY EDWARDS Wroughton Middle School Choir and BET Choirboy of the year Andrew Quartermain to sing "Walking In The Air" £7.50, £9.50, £10.50 Children under 16 £5.50, £6.50, £7.50

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER at 8 p.m. **DENNIS O'NEILL'S OPERA GALA NIGHT** Tenor star Dennis O'Neill stars in a superb programme of operatic favourites inc. VERDI: Parigi o cara & Brindisi from La Traviata, La Rivedrò In Estasi and Act 3 Duet from Un Ballo In Maschera; Aida: Grand March & Ballet Music, Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco; PUCCINI: E lucevan le stelle & Recondita armonia from Tosca; Che gelida manina, Si mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla from La Boheme, Nessun Dorma from Turandot DENNIS O'NEILL tenor EIRIAN OWEN soprano LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA JULIAN SMITH conductor London Choral Society Fanfare Trumpeters from the Band of the Welsh Guards £7.50, £9.50, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50, £18.50

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY at 3 p.m. BY POPULAR DEMAND AN EXTRA PERFORMANCE OF **TEDDY BEARS CONCERT** Presented by KEITH CHEGWIN Bring your teddies to the Christmas holiday fun concert inc. Rudolph The Red-Nose Reindeer, Sleigh Ride, The Teddy Bears' Picnic, Jingle Bells, the Waltz from The Nutcracker, the story of Tubby the Tuba and much more plus a special appearance from Father Christmas LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA FRASER GOULDING conductor PATRICK HARRILD tuba COME EARLY AND MEET THE BEARS Tickets £7.50, but only £6.50 if accompanied by a Teddy Bear. Sunday December 17 - SOLD OUT Thursday December 28 at 3.00 - A few seats still available

THURSDAY 11 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m. **MOZART - SCHUBERT MENDELSSOHN** ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Marcello Viotti conductor Stephanie Gonley violin Mozart ... The Magic Flute Mendelssohn ... Violin Concerto Schubert ... Symphony No.9 (The Great) £7.50, £9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £15.50

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m. **ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** BRIAN WRIGHT conductor MURRAY McLACHLAN piano Rossini ... The Barber Of Seville Overture Grieg ... Piano Concerto Handel ... Water Music Suite Beethoven ... Symphony No.5 £7.50, £10, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Box Office/CC 01-928 8800

TOMORROW at 3.15 p.m. **GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** A FEW SEATS AVAILABLE AT £14 & £12 ONLY ALL OTHERS SOLD

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER at 3.15 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. **JOHANN STRAUSS GALA** With the JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA Directed from the violin by JOHN BRADBURY A traditional Viennese welcome to the New Year with music of the Strauss Family inc. Tales From The Vienna Woods, Czech Polka, Roses From the South, Cracker Polka, Ohne Sorgen Polka, Aquarellen Waltz, Annen Polka, Eljen A Magyar, Radetzky March, Bahn Frei, Jockey-Polka, Wiener Blut Waltz, Eingesendet Polka, Feuerfest Polka, Blue Danube Waltz JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in period costume GERALDINE STEPHENSON choreographer KATE FLOWERS soprano £6.£8,£10,£12,£14 (3.15 perf.) £7.50,£9.50,£11.50,£13.50,£15.50 (7.30 perf.)

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m. **TCHAIKOVSKY** LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA NICHOLAS CLEOBURY conductor PIERS LANE piano BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture Capriccio Italien Swan Lake Suite Piano Concerto No. 1 "1812" Overture with Cannon & Mortar Effects £6.50, £8.50, £11, £12.50, £14, £15.50

at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL NEW CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT SUNDAY MARCH 11 at 7.30 p.m. TICKETS NOW ON SALE **CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR** Ravel: BOLERO; Rossini: WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE; Elgar: POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE MARCH NO 1; Sousa: LIBERTY BELL MARCH; Verdi: GRAND MARCH from AIDA; CHORUS OF THE HEBREW SLAVES from NABUCCO; Bizet: THE PEARLFISHERS DUET Johann Strauss I: RADETZKY MARCH Mascagni: INTERMEZZO from CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA; Sibelius FINLANDIA; Suppe: LIGHT CAVALRY; Offenbach: CAN-CAN; Tchaikovsky "1812" OVERTURE WITH CANNON & MORTAR EFFECTS MUSIC ★ LIGHTS ★ SPECTACLE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS BAND OF THE SCOTS GUARDS LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY MUSKETEERS & CANNON OF THE SEALED KNOT ROYAL ALBERT HALL ORGAN Alan Woodrow Jason Howard MICHAEL REED conductor

Tickets from ROYAL ALBERT HALL BOX OFFICE 01-589 8212/9465 (Access or Visa) ALL CREDIT CARDS on 01-836 2428 - 24hr Booking

SOME TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR MONDAY & TUESDAY 8 & 9 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m. ALL SEATS SOLD for SATURDAY & SUNDAY 6 & 7 JANUARY at 3 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. (A few single seats and restricted view Balcony available)

LIVE RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE ON RPO RECORDS (CD, TAPE & DISC) - From your Local Record Shop or direct from the RPO - Tel: 01-608 2381

St. James's Piccadilly Thursday December 21st at 7.30pm. **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Academy of the London Mozarteum Pro Musica Chorus of London Conductor: Robert Hamwee Works by Corelli, Albinoni, Handel Schubert's Mass in G D167 and Christmas Carols Tickets £8, £6, £3. Box Office 01-404-5719 daily from 9am to 9pm

ROYAL COURT 730 1745 cc 836 2428 From Jan 4 SEVEN LEARS by Howard Barker

SADLER'S WELLS 278 9916 First Call cc 24 hr day 240 7200 Ends Today Whirligig Theatre David Wood's THE IDEAL GROWN EXPEDITION 2.00pm & 6.00pm.

SAVOY THEATRE 01-836 8888 CC No fees 01-836 3464 (24hr 7-day) 01-379 6219 Grs 01-831 2771, 01-240 7941 01-836 8889 PAUL DANIELS IT'S MAGIC Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 (26 Dec - Jan 6 incl. Twice daily 2.30 & 7.30) Child reductions avail. at most perfs. Limited Season Must End Feb 3

SHAFTESBURY Box Office & cc 379 5399 CC (bkg fee) 379 4444/240 7200/741 9999 Eves 7.30 Fri & Sat 5 & 8.15 "THE POWER PLAY OF THE YEAR" Std PETER EGAN in M. BUTTERFLY by David Henry Hwang Directed by John Dexter "QUITE BRILLIANT" Gdn NOW BOOKING TO APR 1990

ST MARTIN'S 01-836 1443. Special CC No. 379 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0 38TH YEAR OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND 836 2660/4143 CC 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 741 9999/240 7200 (bkg fee) "THIS REALLY WONDERFUL ACTOR RETURNING IN TRIUMPH" FT DENHOLM ELLIOTT in DAVID MAMET'S "DELICIOUS" FT COMEDY A LIFE IN THE THEATRE Directed by BILL BRYDEN "PERFORMANCES AS FUNNY AS YOU ARE LIKELY TO SEE IN A LIFETIME" D Mail. Tue-Sat 8 Mats Thu. Sat & Sun 4.30

STRATFORD UPON AVON. Box Office and CC (0789) 295623. Royal Shakespeare Company. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE: Cerlebanes Mon, Tue 7.30. As You Like It: Tomor 1.30 (Mat) 7.30. All's Well That Ends Well: Ton't, Wed 7.30 SWAN THEATRE: The Duchess of Malfi by Webster tickets still available. 1st and 2nd Jan Perfs Sat 1.30 (Mat) 7.30. Meal/Ticket/ Hotel package (0789) 414999

VAUDEVILLE 836 9987 Grps 240 7941 cc 01 240 7200/379 4444/741 9999. "SUPERLATIVE CAST" DMail JENNIFER HILARY BILL GASCOINE DEBORAH NORTON KEITH BAXTER BARNABY AND THE OLD BOYS "FUNNY & MOVING" Std Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.16 Mats Thurs 2.30, Sat 4.30

VICTORIA PALACE 01-834 1317 CC 01-379 4444/240 7200/741 9999 (bkg fee) Groups 930 6123 "Sir' Beverly Aitken" Sun "Sheer unadulterated fun ... I love this show" Sun Exp. The man, The Music, The Legend. BUDDY The Buddy Holly Story A NEW MUSICAL "Wonderful Show" Sun Tel. "I Loved It" Fin Times Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri & Sat 6.30 & 8.30 ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAYS 6.30 PERF

WYNDHAM'S THEATRE 01-867 1116 cc 01-867 1111/379 4444 (no bkg fee) Grps 01-867 1113 ALBERT FINNEY "devastating inner power" D Mail JANET SUZMAN "quite magnificent" Ind SARA KESTELMAN "brilliant" FT DAVID de KEYSER "careful" Std CHRISTIAN ASHOLLY "excellent" O Tel in ANOTHER TIME "absorbing, amusing and serious" Daily Telegraph "easily Ronald Harwood's best work since 'The Dresser'" FT "Elijah Moshinsky's impeccable direction" B Tms Eves 6 Mats Wed 3 & Sat 3

WESTMINSTER 01-834 0283/4 cc 834 0046/379 4444 (no bkg fee) Two Norman plays

● SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

Digging up dirt

TELEVISION
Oscar Moore

Whatever our romantic attachment to the Raj, the India of today, the 40-year-old democracy that has seen 38 years of Congress Party rule, is a teeming enigma of hovels and high-rises, riddled with sectarian violence.

To understand this nation, living with the myth of its own unity, speaking in many tongues, requires an imagination as rich as India itself. Salman Rushdie is the perfect translator of India for the British. Eschewing our sentimentality, he thrusts his exiled nose into the dungheap of misery, poverty and hatred on the streets of Bombay ("A sophisticated bitch of a city") and describes every flavour of the stench.

Taking its cue from Rushdie's *Midnight Children*, Geoff Dunlop's *The Riddle of Midnight* (Channel 4) sends the writer back to his homeland in the year of their 40th birthdays. In search of his own generation, Rushdie sits down with right-wing Hindu politicians, the rabble rousers of religious hatred; with the women of the pavement, the first victims of political whim ("When Indian politicians speak of beauty, the poor know it is time to watch out"); with good-hearted tailors; Marxist landworkers and a Sikh woman who hid while Hindu thugs beat and burned her husband and sons.

Hers is the most horrific version of a tale that weaves through all these lives: religious tension. For all the collisions of wealth and poverty, it is the clash of gods that is paralysing India.

Our schools are heading for their own paralysis as the new national curriculum leaves teachers demoralized, exhausted and paradoxically under-used. Forced to adopt a system that turns its back on 20 years of educational psychology and deprives teachers of initiative, they are leaving in droves: up to 8,000 a year, according to *Public Eye* (BBC2).

The new free-market education system reeks of Victorian ethics: achievers are rewarded, losers are abandoned. Instead of nurturing children's individual talents (academic and non-academic) the system forces them on to an educational assembly line as "products", each worth £1,000 to the school that wins them. We are building a system of hot houses and trash cans, with no scheme for recycling the human waste.

RADIO
Martin Cropper

The grim brick lump in Colindale, where the British Library's newspapers find their eternal crypt, provides a temporary home for all manner of truffling transients. Tomorrow's fish wrappers may work on the principle of instant disposability, but the day *after* tomorrow there will always be someone who needs to examine the early career of the Bay City Rollers or decode Edwardian snuff advertisements.

Colindale's Diary (Radio 4, yesterday) talked, among others, to a woman who wanted to read about her father's death during the Blitz, and a tight-buttoned gent investigating the programmes of the Criterion Theatre in the early Fifties. "I have personal reasons to want to know what someone saw at that time."

That was refreshing; so, too, was the Mrs Oliphant bibliographer warning of the dangers of being sidetracked by trivia. If Mrs O's copious effusion does not itself constitute trivia, what does? Most poignant of all was the girlfriend of a sometime international darts player from Walthamstow. Words cannot do justice to her satisfaction at discovering photographic evidence of the boyfriend receiving a trophy from a page 3 girl.

The programme was a deft and busy collage of voices and sounds: doors, coughs, seething corridors where anonymous shoes walked miles. Several pairs undoubtedly belonged to research-happy biographers who, in a year or so, will be telling us more than we wanted to know about the contemporary but thematically irrelevant public events in the lives of various princes of showbusiness. Someone should research the origins of this sorry habit. My theory is that, having flogged themselves up to Colindale in the first place, biographers feel they need to justify the expenditure of their time.

The voice of the week was a repeat from 1889: a reedy, distant contralto that sounded like someone delivering a sermon in a hailstorm. It was *Robert Browning* (Radio 3, Monday) reciting the opening of "How they brought the good news". The Edison cylinder on which it was recorded did the poem few favours, the clearest line being: "I'm terribly sorry but I can't remember me own verses".

Able LABELS
NAME, ADDRESS, TEL, No. or any words you need up to 6 Lines
1000 Self Adhesive Labels 19 × 40mm
Black on White £3.25 Send Payment with Order TODAY!
Black on Gold £4.00
or Phone–Write for Leaflets & Samples
STATIONERY 200 8" × 6" Printed Sheets + 50 plain + 100 Envelopes £14 Phone–Write for full details
Able WOVEN Name Tapes 72 Single or Winter Tapes only £3.50
100% Polyester, Wash-Dry Clean
One line only up to 30 woven letters/spaces
For School, Uniforms, Workwear etc.
Order in CLEAR BLOCK CAPITALS with payment TODAY! Del. 21 Days.
Stampseekers Ltd • Dept A • Eagle Works NORTHAMPTON NN1 5LS • Tel 0604 [illegible]

New York: **Holly Hill** reviews the rise and fall of Broadway theatrical fortunes

Deep-cutting critics

Four new plays opened on Broadway this autumn, and the best of them closed after two weeks' run. Of those who saw both the National Theatre's and David Hare's production of *Secret Rapture*, I believe that I am alone in finding as many aspects of Hare's casting and direction to endorse as the NT's. There were few wholehearted partisans of the play or production here; even if there had been, Frank Rich's killer notice in *The New York Times* would doom a serious drama without a star on Broadway.

The power of *The New York Times* and the practices of its chief theatre critic have become a *cause célèbre* through a widely publicized exchange of letters between Hare and Rich. Hare braved accusations of sour grapes to raise issues that are real. Though Rich is not alone among Manhattan critics who are growing increasingly vitriolic when they do not like a play or some aspect(s) of the production, Rich's voice is as a thousand against 20. Given the dominance of *The New York Times*, this would be true if its chief theatre critic was Peter Rabbit.

The controversy could be beneficial, but looks more likely to have been chilled by *Newsweek*'s suspension of its longtime theatre critic, Jack Kroll, who publicly supported Hare's views. The problem is among the most acute in Broadway's struggle to survive as more than a thoroughfare for blockbuster musicals, light comedies, and star-studded revivals.

An inventive star-system is being used for A.R. Gurney Jnr's *Love Letters* (Edison Theatre). The play covers 40-something years of letters between two Gurney quintessential WASPs: a poor little rich girl and a dutifully conventional male. The material is amusing, poignant, and penetrating in its observation that it is possible to know and to love some people better through letters than in person.

The production has a great gimmick: the letters are read, scripts in hand, by two performers sitting at a table. The minimal rehearsal needed by director John Tillinger, and the week-long engagements, enable diverse stars to grace Gurney's play. Jason Robards and Colleen Dewhurst began the Broadway run; among others expected are Lynn Redgrave, Kevin Kline, Alexis Smith, William Hurt, Elaine Stritch, Kate Nelligan, and Kris Kristofferson.

Star-studded: a revival of Maugham's *The Circle*, with Rex Harrison, Glynis Johns and Stewart Granger

A satirical comedy about Washington scandal, *Mastergate* (Criterion Center), depicts Senate hearings about an attempted CIA takeover of a Hollywood studio in order to funnel $800 million in arms to Central American guerrillas through a Vietnam epic, "Tet: the Movie", shot in a Philippines ruled by President Neiman Marcos. The hird-brained politicos are anxious to answer two questions: "What did the President know?" and "Did he have any idea he knew it?" The script by Larry Gelbart (who wrote the book for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and the film *Tootsie*) has its loony appeal, but is weighed down by efforts to reach ever-ascending heights of cleverness: "Although his name appears in the minutes of the meeting, he did not spend a minute in the meeting."

A nifty courtroom drama, *A Few Good Men* (Music Box) gives no competition to *Witness for the Prosecution* or *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial* as a genre classic, but it does give Broadway a promising boulevard dramatist, 28-year-old Aaron Sorkin. Long on story and short on ideas and characterizations that would pass even cursory examination, the play is nevertheless entertaining, with a spiffy production directed by Don Scardino and an engaging cast of 20 led by Tom Hulce. Sorkin's most evident talent is for snappy dialogue: Hulce, playing a Navy lawyer assigned to defend two marines accused of murder, is first encountered on his way to see a client who stole and smoked a pound of oregano, a case he describes as "possession of a condiment".

The star-studded revival of Somerset Maugham's *The Circle* (Ambassador Theatre) has settled in for the season. Rex Harrison is in top form as Lord Porteous, his debonair and grumpy charm bouncing off the ripe and wistful allure of Glynis Johns' Lady Kitty as if they were on the Centre Court at Wimbledon.

The surprise of the production is the Clive of Stewart Granger, who has been away from the stage for 30 years and comes back as if he had been away just 30 minutes. Granger's lighthearted, surefooted performance turns the workhorse role of Maugham's play into a thoroughbred.

Good, bad, great

THEATRE
Jeremy Kingston

Cinderella
Theatre Royal, Stratford East

Colour, rousing songs, good jokes and bad behaviour — Philip Hedley's production pulls in these vital components and the result is a grand evening for one and all.

Soppiness would soon get the hook at this East End venue, and there is none of it in David Cregan's zesty new book; about the only time it pops up in his lyrics (cheeky tunes by Brian Protheroe) is in the Prince's love song, when the young fellow eyes the abandoned slipper and chirrups on about his heart. He is played by a man (Mark Haddigan), initially as a royal twit, who just wants to do kind things to the less fortunate.

Uniquely for a panto story, he meets Cinderella beside her mother's coffin, and you will take the measure of the show's breezy attitude to sorrow from one of the verses the cast sing to cheer her up: "If you find it hard to wave/ 'Cos your mother's in her grave/ Skip a bit and smile!"

A show that can take in its first stride such irreverence will clearly cock more snooks before the evening is out, and the assault on decorum is manically led by the two Ugly Sisters (Yvonne Edgell and Michelle Fine). The spoilt-schoolgirl, finger-up-the-nostril type, their toothy grins a severe reproach to dental artistry, they are raucously, blissfully, awful. Shrill voices while singing, however, distort the words; I caught "chivvy" and "skivvy" and "privy", but lost the rest.

The dame, imperiously played by Michael Bertenshaw, whips the audience — "Pack of trouble-makers!" — into a frenzy of hisses and ribald abuse. Clutching a cape of furry animals sewn with a crocodile skin for good measure and a sitting pheasant on her hat, she courts Cinderella's father, marries him in a trice, shoves him in a cupboard and provides a strong background story to support the well-known tale.

This gives help to the characters, who combine the required panto effervescence with more than the usual allotment of credible behaviour. Michelle Gayle is a spunky Cinderella, quite capable of toasting the traditional milksop heroine on her kitchen spit. Neither she nor the show can negotiate the hurdle of preferring someone more important than Buttons (a spry, winning performance by Ian Bartholomew), but she does make him Prime Minister at the end. Her godmother is played by the excellent Geraldine Fitzgerald in a constant rush and a blue fright wig.

Two children from the audience get tickets to the on-stage ball, and silver wands cost 75p at the door.

Irving Wardle

Ariadne
The Place

In the opera *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Strauss and Hofmannsthal devised a marriage of 18th-century comedy and classical myth. In this performance-art piece, Annie Griffin and the Gloria company stage a collision between romantic opera and popular song.

That is a respectful way of describing a show in which deconstruction takes the form of a graffiti-spraying free-for-all. As in the opera, we find the abandoned Ariadne (Leah Hausman) languishing in her island cave (decorated with a reading lamp, a fox's head and other home comforts), facing another empty day like Beckett's Winnie, and mutinously resisting the musical director's rehearsal call.

As in Strauss, she is attended by Echo (curled up in the folds of her robe); and also by Zerbinetta and Harlequin — with the difference that Liz Ranken's Zerbinetta appears in ragged tights and an inner-tube tutu and goes in for songs like the rude version of "Oh dear, what can the matter be?"; and Harlequin (Franck E. Loiret) makes his jack-in-the box entrance as a randy dog in search of a partner. Into this lively scene sails the stately figure of Beverley Luyt in long white dress and soaring voice, delivering arias in German.

I think an encounter between the romantic and carnal impulses is intended. But, company-devised shows being what they are, the thematic line branches off into images of swimming and drowning (islands, after all, are surrounded by water); and those who do not perish that way are apt to be polished off with Ariadne's pistol.

Free-for-all: Rankin and Loiret

There is some talent on this stage. The set, by Laura Ford, consists of an assemblage of wooden waves, like outsize shoe-shop footstools, which enforce interesting patterns of movement, as stepping stones and slides. Nicholas Bloomfield's arrangements, from Strauss to Gershwin and Harold Arlen, are organized with sharp dramatic impact, and as a pianist Bloomfield has steel in his fingers.

There are some passages where voluptuous Viennese cadences blend with Broadway melancholy and momentarily produce the intense emotional dissociation at which Griffin seems to have been aiming. But her direction is such that simultaneous effects blot out, rather than reinforce, each other.

The spoken text is dreadful; and, as so often in shows of performance skills, acting is a skill that gets left out.

DANCE
John Percival

The Prince of the Pagodas
Covent Garden

It is not often that one's warmest thoughts go to the orchestra at the end of a ballet night at Covent Garden. I do not know whether the credit for that after *The Prince of the Pagodas* belongs most to Benjamin Britten for the interest of his score, to the players themselves, or to Ashley Lawrence as guest conductor, but musically everything comes together and I happily praise them all.

A new trio in the leads on Wednesday made surprisingly little difference to the total effect. To follow the distinctively individual Darcey Bussell in a role made specially for her must be daunting, but Viviana Durante has the benefit of more experience in leading roles and must know that she is the better actress of the two.

I would say that until the last big solo she had the edge, thanks particularly to sharper phrasing which enabled her to put a little variety of pace and shading into what had seemed a bland role. But it would be silly to propose a rivalry between these two: they are so different, both exceptional, and together the brightest hopes for the Royal Ballet's future.

Stuart Cassidy, another of the company's young bloods, is hardly less live and slippery than Jonathan Cope as the hero's salamander transformation, and when restored to human guise he proved the more dashing except in (again) the last solo, where his initial derring-do came slightly adrift.

As the wicked Princess Epine, Deborah Bull jumped, kicked, glowered and threatened with great gusto but to limited effect. That neither she nor Fiona Chadwick can make much of the part makes me think the faults must lie in what they are given to do.

Apart from Georgiadis's glowing glass Pagodaland and travelling castles, the ballet's stage craft is desultory. Cack-handed re-telling of the story and uneven choreography (sometimes brilliant, but often trivial) result in a situation where the music is often telling of wonders we do not see.

CONCERT
Noël Goodwin

LPO/Tennstedt
Festival Hall

Klaus Tennstedt was toweringly in command on Thursday, as befits a "Conductor Laureate" of the London Philharmonic measuring his players up to Bruckner's Fourth Symphony. He favoured the 1880 edition, and made a powerful case for accepting the composer's second and even third thoughts embodied in this, while excluding later changes instigated by others.

"Romantic" was the sobriquet Bruckner allowed to be attached to the Fourth, and romantic was the expressive style of a performance that surged and glowed without becoming indulgent. This conductor knows that in a work lasting over an hour, pulse and proportion are fundamental aspects.

So the symphonic edifice was given room to unfold and develop, with a sense of epic adventure from the outset, in the pealing brass and smoothly eloquent strings. This sense of adventure was still apparent when it came to launching the finale, after the heavy tread of the slow movement had been tempered by a tenderness (almost a sense of nostalgia), and after a jauntily rhythmic hunting-tableau in the scherzo.

Transitional episodes throughout were finely graded, and the orchestral playing was grandly sonorous in the great climaxes, with some delicate transparency in the lighter passages. There were a few rough edges in the ensemble, but particular credit is due to the eloquent legato phrasing of violas and cellos, and to a fervent brass choir of whom the first horn made the most of his solos.

The way was prepared at the start of the programme with a weighty, dramatic account of Beethoven's First Symphony. Tension was seldom allowed to relax and the *cantabile* marking for the andante was more urgent than gracious. For the minuet movement that became the first of Beethoven's scherzos in all but name, Tennstedt found a lingering sense of formality that brought its own rewards, before he braced the vigorous last movement on a exuberant rhythmic impetus.

Squeezing the entertainment world

Stephanie Billen talks to the adventurous circus entrepreneur, Gerry Cottle

A man squirms on the pavement, burrowing his body through an upended garbage can, seemingly on some desperate scavenging mission. This is an unusual scene for the citizens of Minneapolis, and one about to become odder still. Suddenly the man's foot pokes out from the can, beside his head. Even the photographer who set this up is stunned. Argentinian contortionist Hugo Zamoratte has, as usual, gone beyond the call of duty.

British circus-owner Gerry Cottle, visiting the Royal Hanneford Circus in Minneapolis to meet Zamoratte for the first time, is particularly pleased to "capture" him, not least because he is no run-of-the-mill triple-jointed person, but one who specializes in getting into bottles.

"One of the main reasons I booked him for the Christmas show was that I loved the rhyme of 'the man in the bottle' and 'Cottle' — good for the fly-posters," he says, unabashed. Zamoratte is extravagantly billed as an "enterologist", but, according to Cottle, this is not merely to attract publicity. "I think it *is* enterology, because he's entering something. Houdini? What did he try to do? Get out of a milk-churn!"

Zamoratte's exploits are impressive. Aged 42, he is not a small man at 5 ft, 11 ins. The secret of his act — which includes getting into a box as well as a bottle — is his astounding ability to bend body and limbs in whatever direction necessary to turn him into little more than a distorted torso. Even the warm-up exercises, in which he seems to take each arm out of its socket, do not prepare audiences for his retreat, via a small door, into a bottle more suited to a stunted houseplant.

Circus folk: Gerry Cottle, left, and contortionist Hugo Zamoratte, star of the "biggest circus in London"

One look at the photographs was enough to convince Cottle that this should be the star act in what he claims is the biggest Christmas circus London has seen, to be presented at the 2,500-seat Wembley Centre. He is incurably optimistic about his choices, though he admits that the curiosities he has picked up on his travels have not always been successful. "My worst choice was an act called King Fu, a big Swedish fellow. He used to stick pins through his arms and cheeks. I was going to Hong Kong for the third time and I had my normal lions, the tigers, the moon-rocket and polar bears; but I wanted to make it a wilder show. I had a lady swimming in a tank with crocodiles and I thought King Fu would fit into that kind of scene. But they didn't like it. It offended them. It was that bad I nearly sent him home."

In the evening Cottle gives a running commentary on Hanneford's circus, offering his opinions on the human and animal performers: "Chimps need a lot of love, you never see chimp owners with children of their own . . . every horse rider has bad knees . . . lions are lazy; mind you I shouldn't say that — a friend of mine was killed by a lion . . . people who hang by the hair are always bad tempered . . . elephants can be killers; they say elephants never forget, but what they mean is that an elephant will wait."

At one stage the human cannonball waves cheerfully at Cottle. "He used to work for me. He was supposed to pack up the chairs at the end of the show. Wouldn't do it. No, he's a superstar . . ."

Even without the frank unfriendliness of Tony Hanneford, this is one occasion on which Cottle feels no great desire to negotiate for acts. But his worldwide scouting has helped to make his circus what it is. The special acts this Christmas — Zamoratte, a pair of black female trapeze artists called Satin, and Clarrison's sea lions — were all wooed from America's huge Ringling Brothers/Barnum and Bailey circus. Cottle's international reputation has been secured by his circus's tours to places such as Iceland, the Orkneys, Malaysia, and, disastrously, Iran, where he was bankrupted by the fall of the Shah.

Cottle's adventurous spirit shows no sign of letting up. Plans are afoot for the establishment of a new business. "I run the circus quite easily now, and I'm very interested in antiques. I think people would buy unusual things, collectables such as Coca-Cola fridges from America. I sell loads of red telephone boxes, as a hobby, from my house."

● *Gerry Cottle's Christmas Circus is at the Wembley Centre, London (01-902-1234), from December 23 to January 14.*

A COMPANION FOR *TLS* SUBSCRIBERS

The Longman Companion to Victorian Fiction

"... an invaluable tool for understanding the Victorian literary milieu, and a first-rate bedside book as well".
Richard Jenkyns
TLS

This superb companion (price £35) is available *free* when you take out a two-year subscription to the *TLS*. Simply complete the coupon and send it to Linda Bartlett, *The Times Literary Supplement*, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

Biennial subscription rates: UK £110; Europe (incl Eire) £158; USA & Canada US$180; Rest of the World (Surface Mail) £146. (Air Mail) £176.

Please send me a subscription to the *TLS* for two years, plus my free copy of *The Longman Companion to Victorian Fiction*.
Name _____ VLT
Address _____
_____ Postcode/Zip _____
I enclose my cheque for £/US$ _____, made payable to *The Times Literary Supplement*.
Please charge my credit card £/US$ _____
☐ VISA ☐ ☐ ☐
Date _____ Expiry Date _____ Signed _____
If this is a gift order we must have the sender's as well as the recipient's name and address. Offer is open to new subscribers only and closes November 30, 1989. Please note that delivery of the book outside the UK can take up to 28 days.

TLS
THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

RECORDS

JAZZ UPDATE

Count Basie & His Orchestra The Atomic Mr Basie (EMI/Roulette CDP 7932732)
A classic from 1957, and one of the last great flourishes of the post-war Basie band. Fuelled by Neal Hefti's arrangements and outstanding solos from "Lockjaw" Davis and Thad Jones, the ensemble passages overflow with confidence.

Bennie Moten'a Kansas City Orchestra Basia Beginnings, 1929-1932 (Bluebird ND90403)
This reissue covers the Count's début on "The Jones Law Blues" through to the famous session in which Ben Webster helped propel "Moten Swing", "Toby" and "Lafayette" into jazz history.

Irene Reid The Lady From Savannah (Birdland MC5 89)
The ex-Basie singer rekindles the atmosphere of her residency at Ronnie Scott's. Mike Carr's organ and Jim Mullen's guitar form a fluid backdrop for a performance topped by a Dinah Washington-style blues medley.

Carols and a three-day wonder

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Benny Bailey For Heaven'a Sake (Hot House 1006)
Wynton Marsalis Crescent City Christmas Card (CBS 465879)

A new release by Benny Bailey is rare enough. The news that the trumpeter's recording comes from the same date which produced Tony Coe's album, *Canterbury Song*, makes any recommendation almost superfluous.

A former member of the Dizzy Gillespie big band, Bailey settled in Europe in 1953, building a reputation as a first-division sideman and session musician. Recordings under his own name have been few and far between, although a long stint with the big band of Kenny Clarke and Francy Boland helped keep him in the public eye.

Canterbury Song and *For Heaven's Sake* were recorded in the space of just three days, using identical personnel. I hesitate to put Bailey's effort in the same league as Coe's, mainly because the Englishman provides a more engaging, if conservative, choice of material. But there is exactly the same relaxed empathy between the soloists and the rhythm section of pianist Horace Parlan, bassist Jimmy Woode and drummer Idris Muhammad.

Bailey gets down to business from the start with a fiery tribute to Roy Eldridge in "Little Jazz". Spitting through muted horn, he scuds through the choruses at a pace which keeps Parlan and the others at full stretch. None of the other tracks has quite the same impact, though Coe's clarinet entry on a brisk "Mood Indigo" comes close. For the rest, it is a case of quiet, unassuming craftsmanship, Bailey's punctilious solos balanced against the reed player's more romantic flourishes.

The Bailey album comes complete with classy packaging of a sort not normally associated with the smaller labels. Judging by the tacky yuletide picture on the cover of Wynton Marsalis's album, the art department at mighty CBS has either gone on strike or been taken over by the Stateside equivalent of YTS trainees.

A strait-laced neo-conservative, Marsalis is the last person you would expect to tackle a collection of Christmas carols. The results, by and large, are predictable enough, with the trumpeter's fearsome intellect scorching the joy out of the old favourites.

Kathleen Battle adds her voice to "Silent Night", and Joe Hendricks fights a losing battle with "Sleigh Ride". The main point of interest, once again, is Marsalis's continuing experiment with instrumentation: the groups performing here include a nonet (featuring Joe Temperley and Alvin Batiste), a septet and a quartet. Marsalis has the ambition — and the corporate backing — to dabble on this scale. How long will it be before he brings all the elements together in an outright success?

CHRISTIAN HIM

Winton Marsalis: fearsome intellect scorches Christmas favourites

DECCA rigoletto verdi

Announcing Decca's stunning new recording of Verdi's masterpiece

Luciano Pavarotti
Leo Nucci
June Anderson
Nicolai Ghiaurov
Shirley Verrett

conducted by
Riccardo Chailly

2CDs 425 864 2 · 2MCa 425 864 4 · 2LPs 425 864 1

Decca Classics PO Box 1420 1 Sussex Place London W6 9XS

ON SALE NOW

Pianistic pilgrimages

CLASSICAL

Hilary Finch

Jorge Bolet plays Liszt Bolet/LPO/Solti (Decca 425 689-2)
Debussy: 16 Preludes Jorge Bolet (Decca 425 518-2)
Brahms: Piano Concerto No 1 Schiff/VPO/Solti (Decca 425 110-2)
Mozart: Piano Concertos K414, 449 Schiff/Camerata Academica des Mozarteums Salzburg/Vegh (Decca 417 886-2)
Mozart: Piano Sonatas K310, 333, 545 Maria João Pires (DG 427 768-2)
Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 3/Bartok No 2 Barto/LPO/Eschenbach (EMI CDC 7 49861 2)
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 1 Kissin/Berlin PO/von Karajan (DG 427 485-2)

JAMES MORGAN

Not afraid to gild vision with virtuosity: Sir Georg Solti (above) and Jorge Bolet join forces with the LPO to celebrate Bolet's 75th birthday

Those who were disappointed to miss the indisposed Jorge Bolet recently in London may take consolation in the fact that his 75th birthday is being celebrated by his record company, too. Decca has chosen a selection from his eight-volume complete Liszt recordings, and added to it a new-minted performance of Liszt's orchestration of Schubert's *Wanderer-Fantasie*, in which the London Philharmonic and Sir Georg Solti join forces.

Until the central meditation on "Death and the Maiden", Liszt's version is altogether more fun, and neither Solti nor Bolet seems averse to the idea of gilding vision with virtuosity. With characteristically crisp brass, Solti starts as he means to go on in this strange hybrid, which yields a true concerto for orchestra. We are then presented with one of each of the three *Années de Pelerinage*. Bolet's "Au Bord d'une source" moves weightlessly as the singing line surfaces through the liquid figuration as if being hummed *en plein air*.

There is, in case we need to be reminded of it, Bolet's uniquely deliquescent "Liebestraum" No 3; there are Liszt's pianistic mirror-images, marvellously revealed through a tracery of figuration in "Un sospiro"; and there is a blithe, drumming "Tarantella". Above all, there are two Schubert song transcriptions: "Auf dem Wasser zu singen", in which one voice tracks the other in a series of refracted water images; and "Die Forelle", in which Bolet's winsome combination of showmanship and naivety is bound together by a deep and obvious affection for both composers.

Bolet's Debussy, recorded more than a year ago in San Francisco, is something of a revelation. His choice of 16 *Preludes* from Books One and Two is marked by a sense of recollection in tranquillity. There is more golden rain than there are rockets in "Feux d'artifice"; Bolet's "Danseuses de Delphes" has a wonderful length of stride and depth of tone, yet the chords are light and translucent in "Le Vent dans la plaine", and the wind is felt as if through the watery movement of the grass itself, such is the delicacy and evenness of Bolet's semiquavers.

Solti cracks the whip for Andras Schiff, too, in a stirring performance of the Brahms First Piano Concerto, whose drama is heightened by an intensely close, physical recording. The work is given a difficult birth in the cracking first chord, the slow, deliberate trills, timpani and strings spaced wide apart, and the continuing strife of bow and string. Schiff maintains tension by emphasizing, in a manner not dissimilar to Brendel, the combative activity of the two hands.

The Adagio is characterized by even pace and lemon-sharp woodwind: Schiff stretches both the fingers and the harmonic muscle to the full. He tames Solti's bark, if not his bite, in the piano's lucent interludes within the final nimble Rondo. Schiff and Solti exploit the concerto's Schumann connection (the slow movement is both memorial for Brahms's mentor, and love-song to his widow) in a voraciously enthusiastic four-hand performance of Brahms's *Variations on a Theme of Schumann*, which makes an unusually satisfying filler.

Schiff played Mozart only last week at the Barbican with the great Hungarian violinist, teacher and conductor, Sandor Vegh, and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. Here it is the Camerata Academica of the Salzburg Mozarteum which accompanies him in two Vienna concertos. .

There are times when the heavy *pizzicato*, the leaning *appogiature* and the robust articulation of every phrase become a little claustrophobic, particularly in the naturally fresh air of the A major, K414. I enjoyed more the richness of Schiff's own trills, his long-sited phrasing, and his aria of a slow movement in the E flat, K499. In its finale, Schiff's insistence on hard, face-to-face dialogue as the theme is fragmented and argued between piano and orchestra sharpens what can be an over-sturdy performance.

The Mozart of Maria João Pires could not be more different. She creates something almost Scarlatti-like in the brilliant trills and elastic rhythms of her playing: her *Sonata facile* is bright with unexpected lights and half-lights, as she warms into and cools out of a phrase, turns to *pianissimo* for the arpeggiated figures, and revels in finding a variety of textures and tones in essentially simple musical material.

On to the concertos. If idiosyncrasy is what you are looking for, then Tzimon Barto is your man. His live performances are never less than stimulating, sometimes provocative, and never without a healthy quota of fresh insight. But pin him down on a recording, and his originality can tip over into the perverse. His Rachmaninov Third Concerto shows quite clearly that when he is good, he is very, very good; and when he is bad, well — pianist simply suffocates composer, and the result is mere vulgarity.

The opening, for example, is exquisite: the theme is whispered out with all the acute sensitivity of a singing voice, and the spring in Barto's fingers as he pounces on every new idea as it approaches is exciting both pianistically and musically. But he is tempted to be interested in too much at once. As the movement progresses towards the cadenza, Barto grabs wildly at every note, and the cadenza itself becomes clangorous, just as the Intermezzo, in turn, is soon to lose its own sense of shape.

The electric brightness of Barto's superbly responsive fingertips comes into its own, though in the Bartok Second Concerto, in which the piano features as a pitched percussion instrument.

From Bolet at 75 to Yevgeny Kissin at 18. This latest Russian *Wunderkind*, who apparently, at 18 months, imitated his mother playing Bach fugue subjects, has spent 18 years studying with one teacher, Anna Kantor. The Tchaikovsky Concerto, his first recording for DG, is a live performance given at the Berlin Philharmonie just a year ago. It shows remarkable assurance and physical strength: it shows, too, an almost obsessive, microscopic fascination with the calls of the work, encouraged by von Karajan's spacious pacing.

When Kissin surfaces into the clearer air of the slow movement, he answers a flute solo of exceptional beauty with an easeful curve of melody, and a *Prestissimo* section as full of dance and laughter as the French song on which it is based. The playing is more nakedly exposed in four Scriabin pieces which fill out the disc. Again the ear listens minutely to every shift of weight and measure in the alternately fragile, languid and air-born miniatures. After his Rachmaninov *Etudes-Tableaux* on RCA earlier this year, this recording confirms that Kissin is a pianist to watch: a sole recital is eagerly awaited.

The Carol Album Taverner Consort, Choir and Players/Parrott (EMI CDC 7 49809 2)
Ecole Notre-Dame: Messe du jour de noël Ensemble Organum (Harmonia Mundi HMA 1901148)

Prince of the Christmas records this year must be Andrew Parrott's cheekily titled compilation. This offers "seven centuries of Christmas music", which seems to mean something from every century since the 12th, with the exceptions, rather curiously, of the 14th and, rather obviously, of the 20th. The present day is tuttingly shunned, though it is a bit disingenuous to complain about "the effete modern tradition of 'arranged' carols" in the notes to a record which consists precisely of arrangements.

The difference is that Parrott and his performers strike back to original sources, which means restoring "Stille Nacht" as a Schubertiad for tenor, baritone, chorus and guitar, stripping "Ding, dong, merrily on high" of its 19th-century text to reveal an old French dance tune with no Christmas connections, and making "Il est né, le divin enfant" a piece of *ancien régime* chamber music. There is also a try at original pronunciation, though in "The Babe of Bethlehem", an early 19th-century American piece of savage, scrubbed harmonies, the singers seem to disagree about whether they are in New England or Old Mummerset.

As these examples may suggest, carols skid together with a sublime disregard for chronology or location. But of course one can programme one's player to pick up the pieces and find favourites: perhaps the Coventry Carol, sung here by three voices without accompaniment, or the irregular Lutheran chorale "Christus wir sollen loben schon", or "Gabriel fram heven-king" sung in Parrott's own high tenor with a hurdy-gurdy. The idea of the "authentic" carol may be a nonsense — carols are most essentially inauthentic, endlessly mutable — but this record contains a great deal to discover and rediscover, conveyed with the freshness and enthusiasm usual in records from these musicians.

The French Ensemble Organum can also be depended on for conviction. Here they offer highlights from a Christmas mass as it might have been sung in Paris in the middle of the 12th century. Plainsong, freely delivered, is interspersed with two-part organa where the upper voice's roulades are again unmeasured, often flowing with the speed and sensuousness of ornament, and suggesting a rather exotic Christmas of virtuosity and passion.

Paul Griffiths

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Carter: Oboe Concerto, A Mirror on Which to Dwell, Penthode Holliger, Bryn-Julson, EIC/Boulez (Erato/BMG ECD 75553)
A welcome quick release for Carter's Oboe Concerto, combining his usual intellectual liveliness with amiability and charm. This full programme also includes the Elizabeth Bishop songs and *Penthode* for five quartets.

Davies: Strathclyde Concertos vol. 1 SCO/Davies (Unicorn-Kanchana DKP(CD) 9085)
Here are the first two of Davies's proposed 10 Brandenburgs: the nifty, courteous Oboe Concerto and the surprisingly spacious Cello Concerto, both played by the musicians for whom they were written.

Stockhausen: Piano Pieces IX-XI Bernhard Wambach (Koch Schwann 310 009 H1)
Essential performances of these major prescriptions of the musical 1950s, including the hammer-blowing tenth piece and the variable eleventh, offered in two versions. Wambach also appears on another vital re-recording of early Stockhausen, including *Kontakte*, *Refrain* and *Zyklus* (Koch Schwann 310 020 H1).

Rock moves the earth for Armenia

Mike Nicholls reports on a plan to harness the power of heavy rock to aid Armenia

Jason Donovan, Kylie Minogue and the rest of Band Aid II are not the only stars aiming to raise money for charity this Christmas. While the school of '89 is relaunching "Do They Know It's Christmas" on behalf of Ethiopia, some graduates of the academy of heavy rock are doing their bit for Armenia.

Last December the northern part of the country was hit by an earthquake that left half a million people homeless. Much of the damage remains unrepaired, with transport and industrial facilities almost non-existent. Hence the formation of Rock-Aid Armenia, featuring stars including Pink Floyd's Dave Gilmour, Brian May of Queen, Ritchie Blackmore of Deep Purple, Bryan Adams and Ian Gillan.

They are part of a 13-piece line-up which has re-recorded "Smoke on the Water", the Deep Purple classic. Ian Gillan, who sang the original version, says: "It was written about an incident which occurred when we were recording in Montreux. The studio blew up. The song was born out of disaster, but went on to become a great success. Although it's such a tenuous link, I hope we can find some parallel with this effort."

As well as the single, all the groups involved have contributed a track to an album which will be released in the New Year, featuring such standards as "Paranoid" by Black Sabbath and Free's "Alright Now". There will also be an 80-minute video starring everyone from Bon Jovi to Led Zeppelin.

All the artists concerned will be waiving royalties, while administration costs have been absorbed by the Harp lager company. This means that even if "Smoke on the Water" doesn't match the 300,000 copies which the Band Aid II single is expected to sell, the £1 million objective should be reached by the addition of LP and video sales. Yet, as Dave Gilmour points out, there's more to it than money.

"Music is a potent force and we may be able to reach into areas which politicians and other people take longer to get into," he says. "I was near Armenia with Pink Floyd about a month before the earthquake, so news of it hit home hard. Sometimes that feeling of being lucky to be alive is enough to make you go to any trouble for the sake of others."

ROCK UPDATE

Bobby Brown Dance! . . . Ya Know It! (MCA MCG 6074)
Brown spent more weeks on the UK chart than did any other act in 1989. This compilation of 12-inch mixes includes all the big hits — "My Prerogative", "Don't Be Cruel", etc — together with material from his US début, *King of Stage*.

Various Artists Lambada Brazil (Polydor 841 580-1)
If you have thrilled to the dirty dancing routine on *Top of the Pops* and warmed to the unseasonally vibrant, tropical Latin rhythms, then here is the ideal collection of light, indigenous, Brazilian pop. Featuring Carioca'a version of the hit single, "Lambada", and two tracks by the celebrated singer Margareth Mendezes ("Alegria da Cidade", "Tenda do Amor Magia"), who is proving to be a key element in David Byrne'a much-vaunted touring band.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 8 of **David Sinclair's** collectors' A-Z, a scrupulously researched and patently biased guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time.

The entries are designed to be pasted on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and occasional misses of rock history.

RAY CHARLES

Ray Charles was the founding father and supreme exponent of soul, no less than Elvis Presley was the king of rock'n'roll. A musician of transcendental ability, Charles was the first to weld the basic musical forms of black America — jazz, blues and gospel — into a new, coherent whole that became known as soul. An early example, the celebrated "I Got a Woman" (1954), finds Charles applying a searing dose of spirituality to a decidedly secular lyric, his rich, rasping voice underpinned by a jazz-blues piano motif that soaks like burning kerosene into the fabric of the song. That pivotal recording, along with "Hallelujah I Love Her So", "What'd I Say", and many others from Charles's epoch-making early catalogue of singles, is featured on the indispensable 1971 compilation, **A 25th Anniversary Showbusiness Salute to Ray Charles**. His prowess as a jazz musician is often overlooked, but check **Genius + Soul = Jazz** (1961), recently reissued on Essential, for confirmation of a supreme talent that knew no boundaries.

Eric Clapton

ERIC CLAPTON

Although possessed of one of the few, truly original guitar voices in rock, Eric Clapton has recorded nothing of note as an instrumentalist since 1969. But what a catalogue of ground-breaking performances he had amassed by then. One thinks of the opening bars of "All Your Love" on John Mayall'a **Bluesbreakers with Eric Clapton** (1966), where his distinctive vibrato and steely tone slice through the song'a central figure with the cool violence of a guillotine; or the otherworldly lattice-work of rattle-and-hum feedback which he constructs during "Sweet Wine" on **Fresh Cream** (1966); or the towering authority of his hell-for-leather soloing on Cream'a live version of Robert Johnson'a "Crossroads" (**Wheels of Fire**, 1968). As a solo act, Clapton has tended towards the tastefully bland. **Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs**, released in 1970 under the guise of Derek and the Dominos, is a decent enough collection, which, although it failed to register on the UK chart, houses a title track that has since become a certified classic.

NEXT WEEK: The Clash, Ry Cooder

GARDENING

Francesca Greenoak on how to choose the most suitable tree for your garden and ensure that it takes root

Budding hope for the spring

This Sunday marks a turning point in the course of winter, for, although the mornings are still drawing in and we have several days to go before the shortest day, the evening light will begin to extend from tomorrow. Spring is still distant, but we are on the way — and can begin to look at the buds in the garden in a new light.

After the long autumn, some oaks and beeches are hanging on to their copper-brown foliage, but most deciduous trees are showing their full winter beauty. Every species has its own branching and bud form, usually shrouded by leaves except in winter. The common lime has satiny red-brown oval buds, in contrast with the large, upright, sooty-black ash buds on their grey twigs, or the long, graceful, pointed shape of beech, purplish-brown against the deep brown of the twigs. Catkins of birch and hazel remain stiff and small, not ready to swell and open into lamb's tails until February. The bark of trunk and branches is a distinctive feature in many trees, notably the mahogany bark of Prunus serrula, the smooth, grey hornbeam with its pale stretch marks, the swirls of sweet chestnuts, the patchwork of London plane, and some of the eucalyptuses.

As long as the weather is not exceptionally wet or cold, trees may be planted any time between now and next March. The traditional bare-rooted trees can sometimes be collected from local nurseries, or purchased by mail order from a tree nursery (such as Notcutts, Woodbridge, Suffolk or Hilliers of Winchester).

Fairly small, bare-rooted trees are the cheapest and are most likely to make a good root system and thrive, growing up quickly in later life. Sometimes the roots are bandaged up to make a root-ball when they are dug up at the nursery; the wrapping must be removed when the tree is planted and the roots gently spread into the soil.

Larger container-grown trees, often the only option in garden centres, have become used to life in a pot, so it can be difficult to persuade them to put out a proper root system.

Trees grow well in Britain, so gardeners have an almost unlimited choice of species from every other temperate part of the world, in addition to our fine native tree flora. With the exception of trees which respond well to topiary or clipping, it is important to choose a tree with a mature size that will fit the garden, or you may end up with an over-large tree which you have to keep in trim with hard pruning.

The willow-leaved pear, a beautiful, silvery, narrow-leaved tree, admired by so many visitors to Vita-Sackville West's white garden at Sissinghurst, is among the most beautiful of the moderately-sized trees. Once rather rare, it is now readily available and worth considering as a specimen tree to dominate a border or to make a feature in a lawn. The species (*Pyrus salicifolia*) is ideal for the former, and the weeping form (*Pendula salicifolia* 'Pendula') for the latter. (The figures below indicate approximate height and spread at five years and 20 years/maturity.) This species will be 10 x 6ft/3 x 2m at about five years, growing to 26 x 20ft/8 x 6m at full maturity, which may be after about 20 years or more.

Over-use can quickly cloy the taste for a distinctive tree, but despite its brash yellow-green brilliance there is no doubt that Frisia, a good golden form of the false acacia (*Robinia pseudacacia*) is a dramatic sight, particularly as a single specimen in a town garden.

There are several crab apples which make good garden trees, with scented spring blossoms and small, pretty-coloured apples for autumn and winter. The best-known cultivars are John Downie, which has large reddish-orange and yellow crab apples, Golden Hornet, which has brilliant golden-yellow ones, and Red Sentinel, which holds its fruit well into the winter months. As they qualify as fruit trees, none of these crabs attract VAT, so they should represent good value (13 x 5ft/4 x 1.5m; 26 x 20ft/8 x 6m).

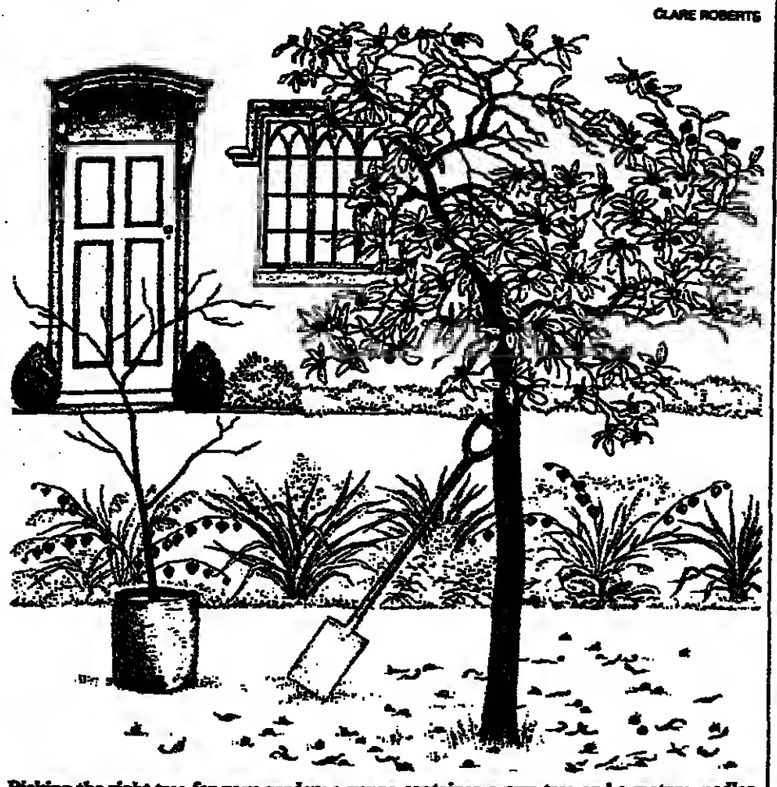
A naturally small and attractive tree is the medlar (*Mespilus germanica*), which has large, soft green leaves, and white flowers, as beautiful as a rose but unscented, followed by the russet-brown fruits with their spidery bracts, eaten soft after the frosts have got to them. Opinions of medlars vary, but they are a favourite in my family; the children have loved them since infancy, and adults enjoy medlars and port at the end of a meal at this time of year. There are not many medlar cultivars; the one most usually available is called the Nottingham, but unnamed medlars will fruit quite well (slow-growing, 12 x 12ft/ 3.5 x 3.5m to 20ft/6m height and spread).

The quince, another moderate-sized tree, is beautiful in its pale foliage and has elegant, pale pink flowers. It is a joy to see on an autumn day, hung with oblong-shaped, golden-yellow fruit which scent the air around the tree (10 x 8ft/3 x 2.5m, to an eventual 20ft/6.5m each way). Quinces cook well with apples; they do not store, but can be frozen in slices ready for use during the winter. Medlars and quinces can be made into jellies and cheeses.

For a small garden, the Kilmarnock willow is an ornamental tree which should not reach much more than 10ft/3m in height and about 6ft in spread at most, after 15 years or more. Its rather stiff, weeping form is not to everybody's taste, but underplanting with equally formal bulbs such as hyacinths or tulips makes a virtue of this characteristic. A cultivar of the pussy willow or goat willow (*Salix caprea*), it is at its best in spring, though it could be brightened with summer bulbs and climbers.

● *Further reading*: Trees be Company, *an anthology of tree poetry edited by Angela King and Susan Clifford, and* In A Nutshell, *a compendium of ideas on growing and looking after trees in gardens and the wider landscape by Neil Sinden, are both published by Common Ground at £5.95 (plus £1.30 p&p if purchased by mail order from Common Ground, 45 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HJ).*

CLARE ROBERTS



Picking the right tree for your garden: a young container-grown tree and a mature medlar

WEEKEND TIPS

● **Pick flowers of the winter iris, *Iris unguicularis*, to ensure a succession of flowers.**
● **Continue to remove dead leaves from ponds and rock gardens.**
● **Harvest turnips and store them for later use.**
● **Don't overwater plants in cool greenhouses or frames.**
● **Dig up a few parsnips and leeks and store them in a cool place for use when the ground is too frosted to dig.**

HOW TO PLANT YOUR TREE

● **Prior to planting, soak the tree roots and dig a very large hole.**
● **Check drainage; dig over a larger area, incorporating grit in heavy soils if necessary, and adding extra organic matter to dry ones. Partly refill the hole with good topsoil and compost, leaving enough room to accommodate the roots/root-ball.**
● **Hammer in a short (12-18in/30-45cm), stout stake (for container-grown trees make a straddling "n"-shaped support to avoid damaging the roots).**
● **Place the tree carefully in the hole (not more deeply than its original planting) and fill the hole with topsoil (adding a handful or two of bonemeal). Firm it around the roots as you proceed.**
● **Firm soil, and tie tree to stake with a tree-tie (or old stocking), so that the roots are held firm while the trunk can rock in the wind. Water substantially.**
● **Over the next few months check that the soil around the base is still firm, and in dry weather water copiously but not too often. Make sure the tie does not bite into the trunk as the tree grows.**
● **Normally the stake may be removed after a year or two, when the root system is established.**

OUTINGS

CHRISTMAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL: For hundreds of South American butterflies in the London Butterfly House — specially heated and lit for the occasion — it's courtship time. Thousands of the butterflies, including two species not previously seen in Britain, have been imported in pupae form and will metamorphose over the next few weeks. Visitors will be able to witness the courtship rituals of some 500 Caligos at any one time, in the company of Blue Morphos, Giant Owls, and others. Best time to visit is between 3.30pm and 5pm.
The London Butterfly House, Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex (01-560 7272). Until Jan 6, 10am-5pm. Adult £1.90, child £1.10.

FOR LOVE OF BIRDS: The centenary exhibition for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds opens today. It focuses on the history and work of the organization. The exploitation of birds 100 years ago — for sport, study collections and for ladies' costume decorations — has largely given way to equally grave threats, including pollution, loss of habitat and illegal trapping.
Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool. Until Feb 10, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 2-5pm. Free.

STOWE LANDSCAPE GARDEN: The landscape garden where Capability Brown was head gardener from 1741 to 1750 has recently been acquired by the National Trust, which has drawn up a 15-year programme of restoration both for the gardens and the Grade I listed outbuildings. As from today, the gardens will be open throughout the school holidays.
Stowe Landscape Garden, Stowe, near Buckingham. Today until Jan 10, closed December 25, 26, 27 and Jan 1, 12 noon to 5pm or dusk, whichever is earlier. Adult £1.40, child £1.

THE MUSICAL MYSTERY TOUR: Lucie and Roddy Skeaping present a concert for families. Using 20 medieval instruments, the couple provide a jolly musical journey back in time with lots of audience participation.
The Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1. Today 3.15pm. Tickets £2.50, bookable (01-928 8800).

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WALK: A Citisights event tracing the changing story of past Christmases, from Pagan yule-tide and Roman Saturnalia to today.
Meet at the entrance to the Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2. Tomorrow 2.30pm. Tickets £2.50 and £3.50. Further information (01-806 4325).

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER: Family workshop — make your own Christmas stocking, fillers, sweets and candles. Also lace painting, festive music and singing.
Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh. Today 10am-4pm. Small admission charge.

THE SPIRIT OF VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT MANOR FARM: Traditional preparations for Christmas, including poultry plucking and mince-pie making. Farmhouse and tree decorated in Victorian style, home-made food for sale. Carol service at 3pm in the 13th century church of St Bartholomew.
Manor Farm, Upper Hamble Country Park, Bursledon, Hampshire (04892 87055). Tomorrow 10am to dusk. Adult £1.25, child 80p.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE INSTITUTE: Celebration of Indian instrumental music and vocals followed by an informal workshop.
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-603 4535). Tomorrow 2.30-5pm. Free.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS: Members of the Tatton Living History Society in period costume, with the house decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Carols and harpsichord music, visits from local school choirs, seasonal refreshments.
Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 54822). Tomorrow 1-4pm. Adult £1.35, child 65p.

WRAPPING FOR CHRISTMAS: A family workshop where you can make Christmas boxes and trimmings.
The Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 (01-699 1872). Today 1.30-3.30pm. Admission £1. Check place availability with museum.

DENNIS O'NEILL'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Julian Smith conducts the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, the Ardwyn Singers and the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir with Cardiff's Singer of the World 1989, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, in an evening of operatic and Christmas favourites.
St David's Hall, Cardiff. Tomorrow 7.30pm. Adult £4-£12.50, child £2-£6.25. Box-office (0222 371236).

BOURNEMOUTH CAROLS: Neville Creed conducts the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus in a programme of favourite carols and festive surprises.
The Wessex Hall, Poole, Dorset. Tomorrow 7.30pm. Tickets £5, £7. Box-office (0202 885222).

Judy Froshaug

COLLECTING

A form of director's chair was first seen in the 14th century BC, **Peter Philp** writes

Ancestral seats

A cross-legged folding chair, of the type used by film directors, follows the long tradition of chairs, stools and settees on X-shaped supports — a tradition that began in Egypt in the 14th century BC, with an X-shaped stool on feet carved and painted to represent goose heads. Usually it was made to fold, but an example found in the tomb of Tutankhamun has a seat that looks like leopard skin but turns out to be a clever bit of decorator's *trompe-l'oeil*, mounted on a rigid frame.

The Greeks developed both fixed and folding versions. An amphora in the British Museum, dating from about 540 BC, shows Zeus seated on a rigid stool with a female mask at the centre of the X. The folding type (*diphros okladias*) was customarily carried through the streets of Athens by a slave, in case his master wanted to sit down. In Rome, a magistrate sat on an X-framed stool (*sella curulis*) when riding in his official chariot.

In the Byzantine Empire, the X-shape was used for both stools and chairs, decorated with carved animal heads. In the Middle Ages, it persisted as a seat of authority — even as a king's throne. In the 14th and 15th centuries, throne-chairs appeared with the X-supports at the sides rather than at front and rear, both designs coming to be used during the Italian Renaissance.

A folding-Florentine type, known as a "Dante" or "Savanarola" chair, has numerous curved X-supports facing back and front, facilitating the folding process when the backboard is removed. This type has continued to be made, not only in Italy but in North Africa and the Middle East. A Venetian version from the 15th and 16th centuries, also made to fold, was of heavier construction, with X-supports formed from straight members set at the sides.

The Florentine type reached Britain from the Netherlands about 1530. Heavily built and often rigid, the frame was covered with studded leather or fabric. Early examples are very rare, but later copies — many of them made for the theatre — are legion. The Venetian form, with side supports, was also first made in Britain in the 16th century. One famous example is carved with the name of a treasurer of Glastonbury Abbey who was martyred in 1539, and the type has come to be known as a "Glastonbury" chair.

By about 1650, the X-framed chair was going out of fashion, but the stool was still highly regarded, especially in France where, at the court of Louis XIV, the folding type — *le siège ployant* or *pliant* — was reserved for the use of duchesses. In 17th century Britain, churches hired out a more utilitarian version for the use of the congregation.

Interest in Greek and Roman furniture resulted in an international revival during 1800-40. In France, Georges Jacob and his sons made stools inspired by the *sella curulis*, which also served as a model in England for Thomas Hope and his imitators during the Regency. Examples sell for between £400 and £2,000. In New York, Duncan Phyfe produced settees supported on a series of X-shaped supports. The 20th century has continued the tradition with Mies van der Rohe's 1929 Barcelona chair in steel with X-shaped supports at the sides, which is still in production — not to mention chairs for film directors.

SALES GUIDE

MINIATURES: Margaret Story began collecting miniature glass in 1920, including tea services, furniture, and tiny binoculars. The collection also includes needlework items and postcard albums. It is expected to make about £30,000.
Viewing today (9am-1pm) and Monday (8.30am-10am).
Phillips, Bath, 1 Old King Street, Bath BA1 2JT (0225 310 609/709). Mon 11am.

TRAINS GALORE: Viewing of this 400-lot model train sale at Christie's, South Kensington, today. Estimates range from £100 to several thousand for classics.
Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing today 10am-4pm, sale Mon 2pm.

WEST 2 WONDERLAND: Dolls' houses, teddy bears and soft toys, together with some Hornby gauge "0" railway items made for the Argentinian market make this an unusual Christmas toy sale.
Phillips West Two, 10 Salem Road, Bayswater, London W2 4DL (01-229 9090). Wed 12 noon.

FINAL BOW: Tom Keating's last 80 pictures are being sold at Bonham's, including his version of Turner's "The Fighting Temaire" showing Keating being led away by Scotland Yard detectives.
Viewing today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 2.30-5pm.
Bonham's, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 1HH (01-584 9161). Tues 6pm.

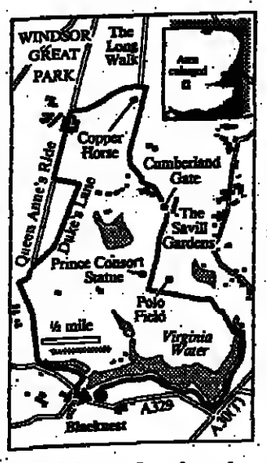
John Shaw

WEEKEND WALK

Windsor Great Park, eight miles

Whether or not you think Windsor Great Park is the finest landscaped parkland in Britain, it is certainly one of the most extensive. Here is a circular stroll, suitable for the motorist and for the train-user making the 45-minute journey to Sunningdale station on the half-hourly service from London Waterloo.

Start from the Blacknest car park on the A329 near Sunningdale, then head through Frost Farm Plantation to reach Virginia Water. Turn right to follow the edge of this artificial lake which was created in the 18th century by the Duke of Cumberland. Pass a collection of Roman ruins from Leptis Magna in Libya (re-erected on this site in 1827), and later a man-made series of waterfalls. At the end of the lake stands an imposing totem pole, 100ft high, symbolizing the centenary of British Columbia and donated by the Indians of Vancouver Island.



Turn right to follow the signpost towards the Savill Gardens, and then left to Smith's Lawn. Turn right in front of the buildings and walk along the right-hand edge of the polo field. Look out for the obelisk, visible above the trees to the right, and the statue of the Prince Consort over to the left. Continue straight ahead to Cumberland Gate, which stands to the right of a large red-brick house.

Leaving the surfaced drive, go half-left through the trees to pick up a grassy track leading to Cumberland Lodge. Pass to the left of a tennis court, and then downhill, with a fence to the right and a small pond to the left. Continue up a wide track between hedges to the Copper Horse statue. From near this famous structure, representing George III and erected in 1831, there is an extensive view down the straight three-mile Long Walk to Windsor Castle.

Turn left on the drive below the statue and continue until the outskirts of "The Village". Immediately before the buildings, turn left onto Queen Anne's Ride and follow this to a cross-track in front of the Crown Estate private area. Left here, and next right onto the tree-lined Duke's Lane. Just after crossing a small stream, and before the houses ahead, turn left onto a sandy bridleway. Leave this riding track when it nears the road on the right, by taking a grassy path on the left. Follow this to a bridge on the left, spanning an arm of Virginia Water. Finally, pick up the path through the trees back to the car park at Blacknest.

Alan Castle

● *Last week's walk featured Teesdale, which is in the county of Durham, not Yorkshire.*

HOMES & GARDENS

CRESCOURT – *the professionals*
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
OVER 17,000 LOFT CONVERSIONS ALREADY COMPLETED IN THE UK
That's right, it's Crescourt's twenty-fifth anniversary and that means twenty-five years of professional design and installation of loft and attic conversions throughout the UK.
If you need extra living accommodation why uproot the family with an expensive house move? Instead, turn that disused dark attic into a bright and cheerful bedroom, playroom, bathroom or guestroom, greatly enhancing your home's value.
Crescourt Loft Conversions, recommended by Local Authorities and Building Societies are guaranteed for a full five years.
We offer a free initial survey leading to a tailor made conversion with all plans prepared and approvals obtained on your behalf by our experts.
Interested? Contact Crescourt today, we''ll send you a free colour brochure and arrange for a no-obligation Loft Survey if required.
CRESCOURT LOFT CONVERSIONS
4-54 Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands. B70 6QR.
Tel: 021-553 4131 Fax: 021-500 6179
I am interested in a Crescourt Loft Conversion. Please send full colour brochure.
Name .....
Address .....
Tel No TT2
To: Crescourt Loft Conversions Ltd., Freepost, Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 6QR. Tel: 021-553 4131 London: 01-874 5645.

Glenbrook Bonsai Nursery
● Wide choice of trees & sundries
● Starter bonsai specialists
● Beginners course
– OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK –
TICKENHAM - CLEVEDON AVON BS21 6SE
on B3130 - 3 miles from M5 Exit 20
Tel: NAILSEA (0272) 858596

WHITEHOUSE IVIES
Vast, widest possible range and sound advice in new and very well illustrated mail-order catalogue from:
WHITEHOUSE IVIES
Tollesbury Kingsm. Station CM9 8EZ
Telephone for Times: 0621 815782

BANISH MOLES HUMANELY
Simple Electronic Device
No poisons

Sunglo-Lite NATURAL Light Lamp and Flora-Lamp
GROW BEAUTIFUL PLANTS ANYWHERE ALL YEAR ROUND FROM: GOOD GARDEN CENTRES, ELEC. SHOPS, SELFRIDGES LONDON, HDC (Nationwide Distributor) 01-881 2001
ENQ. 01-458 2836

JACQUES AMAND LTD
SPECIALIST FLOWER BULB MERCHANTS GOLD MEDAL WINNER AT CHELSEA
Jacques Amand's Free colour catalogue. Superb selection of Summer flowering bulbs. Many rare and unusual species.
Write or phone:
Jacques Amand Ltd
The Nurseries, 135 Clamp Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3JS.
Tel: 954 8138

TUNNEL GREENHOUSES
And replacement covers in the latest Thermic Polythene.
Lowest UK Prices
Brochure From:
F.R.I. College House
Penstrowed
Newtown
Powys
TEL: 0686 628582

BEAUTY FROM BULBS
"THE MOST EXTENSIVE RANGE OFFERED ANYWHERE"
Discover the many unique and rare specimen bulbs and plants available only from De Jagers. All features in our comprehensive 96 page full colour 1990 Spring Catalogue. Your garden deserves something beautiful.
Send or phone now for your free copy.
DE JAGERS (K) (Est. since 1868) MARDEN, KENT TN12 9BP or (0622) 831235 (24 hours).

uPVC COMPOST COMPOUND FOR THE ORGANIC GARDEN
● Durable ● Size 750 x 550 (or made to order) ● White or Brown ● Easy to Erect ● Ideal for Organic waste
For details contact
BERN MANUFACTURING LTD
Rand House, Digoe, Diggle, Saddleworth, OL3 5LA.
Tel: 0457 872937

LARGE TREES TRANSPLANTED
Acquire a mature landscape without waiting a decade. Capability Brown did it too!
CIVIC TREE CARE LTD.
Tring, Herts.
Tel. 044282 5401

HW HAROLD WALKER
Oakfield Nurseries
Huntington, Chester CH3 6EA
Tel: 0244 328731
1990 CHRYSANTHEMUM CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE
Including the widen range of garden sprays available in the country plus all the leading exhibition varieties
Please send stamp

PLANT STANDS
Display your favourite plants or ornaments on a solid wood natural pine finished reproduction torchère.
Only £30 including p&p to UK or Channel Islands.
Details from:
Sark Pine Imports, Le Vieux Clos, Sark, Channel Islands.
Tel. 0481 832999

BLACK POLYTHENE SHEETING
Black clear black/white Polythene sheeting
Wear permeable black mulch
For details send SAE to:
76 Oakfields Avenue
Oxhey, Herts WD1 4LW
Tel: 0923 228047

TOOLS, BOOKS, ORGANICS, EQUIPMENT, PESTICIDES etc
Most gardening products, year round. Write or phone for FREE catalogue.
GARDEN CARE, DEPT TT1, CROMFORD ST, OLDHAM OL1 4EA.
Tel: 061-627 5779.

SHOPAROUND

WAKE UP TO CONDENSATION FREE WINDOWS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!*
WITH THE AMAZING MOISTURE ABSORBING SILICA GEL BARS

"Silica gel n. an amorphous form of silica capable of absorbing large quantities of water." Collins English Dictionary.

● SILICA GEL IS VERY HYGROSCOPIC, AND HAS BEEN USED BY THE DOUBLE GLAZING INDUSTRY FOR OVER 20 YEARS.
● USE AGAIN AND AGAIN

The magical properties of Silica gel have to be seen to be believed and amazingly can be used for many years without having to purchase replacement. Our specially formulated bars (approx 190 x 7 x 19mm) completely encapsulate the Silica gel, making it COMPLETELY SAFE yet still allowing the moisture to be sucked in through the vents. Test them yourself now.
ORDER NOW FOR A 7 DAY DESPATCH

3 BARS – ONLY £4.50 + 50p p&p
BUY 6 GET 3 FREE!
6+3 FREE FOR ONLY £9 + 95p p+p

SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO FIT BETWEEN SECONDARY GLAZING

Simply place on window sill
★ 14 DAY MONEY BACK OFFER
0455 611106
AMBER PRODUCTS
(Dept T51) 19 Waterfield Way, Hinckley, LE10 9ES
AMBER PRODUCTS (Dept T49) 19 Waterfield Way, Hinckley, LE10 9ES
Please send me ... Silica Gel Bars
I enclose cheque/PO's for £ or debit my Access/Visa Card No
Name
Address
Regd in Eng. No. 1295353

MASSIVE STOCK CLEARANCE SALE
SALE
STARTS 16TH DEC
£30 & £40 OFF USUAL PRICES
ZIPPED COVERS ½ PRICE
CUSHIONS £2 EACH
SMALL TABLES + BOOKSHELVES £15 & £20
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
ONLY CLOSING 25TH + 26TH DEC
Futon Furnishing
Lincoln Road
East Finchley
London N2
Tel: 01-444 7249

Henlow Grange HEALTH FARM
HENLOW BEDFORDSHIRE
GIFT VOUCHER
THE HEALTHY CHRISTMAS GIFT
Ring 0462 811111

Christmas Gift Ideas from
AKOM LTD.
The exclusive range of The Times Computer Crosswords Volumes 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 and The Times Jubilee Puzzles 1932 - 1987 for Crossword Novices or Experts
Each Volume has 60 Times Crosswords, features advanced 4th Generation software and is available for most computer systems (except Commodore & Apple). A comprehensive instruction booklet is included in an attractive A5 plastic case and cover.
Prices range from £9.95 for cassettes to £19.95 for IBM discs.
£1 surcharge for orders ex U.K.
As a special Christmas promotion we are offering a £1 discount on all discs (Offer ends 31st December)
Call AKOM LTD on 01-852 4575 for Mail Order and further details
Come and see us at The Late Late Christmas Shopping Show Olympia, 20-24 December (Stand 236, Level 2)

GIVE YOUR BACK A GIFT THIS XMAS
Correct-it
The Back support that is shaped to offer comfort, not only in the lumbar region, but also laterally. Office and car models available at £21.50 + £2.50 p/p.
Please send S.A.E. for full colour brochure to:
THE BACK SHOP
24 NEW CAVENDISH ST W1M 7LH 01-935 9120

MORE EXCITING THAN A PAIR OF SOCKS!
Our vouchers make a truly original gift! Give someone the chance to drive at Thruxton circuit in Hampshire, for only £69. A full briefing, instructed laps in an MG Saloon and then five laps in a single seater Formula Ford racing car, add up to a memorable Christmas present. If someone in your life would appreciate this experience phone TODAY
026 477 3511 026 477 3902
or contact Dept GH
IAN TAYLOR MOTOR RACING SCHOOL
Thruxton Circuit, Andover, Hants. SP11 8PW

IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT!
Send your friends a genuine piece of history!
ONLY £4.99 inc p&p
A PART OF THE BERLIN WALL
Please send ... parts at £5.68 each (inc. p&p)
PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS
Mr/Mrs/Miss
Address
Postcode
Make out Cheques/POs to INVOSHIRE LTD.
Return to: Invoshire Ltd. 29 Dorset Square London NW1 6RJ or call 01-402 2205 for credit card facilities (allow 21 days for delivery)

Something Different for Someone Special This Christmas
A champagne flight in a hot-air balloon with the Balloon Club of Great Britain
Gift vouchers are available for just £135.
For a brochure and credit card bookings 'phone the Balloon Club of Great Britain on 0276 055111.
(Flights available all over the country.)

TIES NARROWED
SHIRTS RE-COLLARED and RE-CUFFED
Save your wide ties from fashion obsolescence! We'll narrow your ties to a stylish 3 inches or your desired width! Send £13.95 with each set of 3 ties and/or £6 for new white collar and £5 for new white cuffs with each shirt to:
P&S LTD, Dept D 82, FREEPOST, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 7BR. Tel: (0565) 4825.
More than 5,000 satisfied customers worldwide.

JUKE BOXES
Collector has juke boxes for sale. Classic models from 1955 - £800, 1957 - £2,500.
Phone 0623 27184 for details
Delivery before Christmas can be arranged

XMAS GIFT FOR ALL
A GIFT FOR KINGS & QUEENS
For the successful business person or for the one you love
The World's best Beluga Caviar & the finest Champagne
Your thoughts to a tangible thank you within 24 hours
Tel: 0376 519627 anytime

FOR THE HOME
CUBES SHELVING TRESTLES DESKS ETC
Inexpensive drawers, record units wardrobes, cupboards & shelving beech, white, black for home/work
Mail-order catalogue (or visit us)
CubeStore 58 Pembroke Rd W8
01-994 6016 (also Silk & Notts)

CASHMERE
Unrepeatable offer
- ladies and gents 2 ply cashmere sweaters in either camel or royal blue - £65
Sent by return post. Major credits accepted.
Phone now, limited stocks.
Phone for colour brochure or call at
The Cashmere Store, 207 High St, Edinburgh.
See top quality Scottish cashmere at realistic prices.
Everything from sweaters to serapes (serapes £135).
Phone 031-226 4861 031-225 4055

Focus On.. TAFFETA AND TAILS
GOWNS GALORE LTD
DRESS HIRE
Exclusive Designer Dresses to Hire for all Special Occasions
Available Now or Made to Order
1 Old Warwick Road
Hockley Heath
Lapworth
Tel: (05643) 3003

TABLESAFE
HEAT RESISTANT PROTECTION FOR YOUR TABLE
NEW
Custom-made, any size, any shape. Tablesafe protects your polished table against heat and stains. Can be reversed for use as a writing surface. Delivery 7-10 days.
Write or phone for details and sample
TABLESAFE
2A FERDINAND PLACE, LONDON NW1 8EE
TEL 01-267 5523

Pine beds by Moriarti
GALAXY STORAGE BEDS
A superb range with drawers and cupboards. Deliveries throughout UK. Send SAE for brochure of all our beds.
Moriarti's Workshop (T)
High Halden, Kent. (023385 214)

Want to make your own furniture ?
Join our 5-day Course and on completion, take home this Georgian style corner cupboard. This is just one of our carefully selected range of projects which can be made by the absolute beginner within the period of the course.
Write or phone for information.
WISTON PROJECTS SCHOOL
The Old School, Wiston, Haverfordwest, Dyfed. SA62 4PS.
Tel: (043782) 579

Fly with Britain's Top Balloon Pilots
Champagne Flights in the Mercier Champagne Balloon
Christmas Gift Vouchers £115
BOOK NOW WITH ACCESS OR VISA OR RING FOR A BROCHURE
BALLOONING WORLD 01-706 1021
FULLY LICENSED CAA APPROVED BALLOON OPERATORS

Quality SHIRTS individually MADE TO MEASURE to any size from the finest fabrics for a perfect fit. Over 300 fabric samples & colour brochure FREE
Seymour Shirts, Freepost, Dept X4, Bradford BD1 1BR Tel: 0274 736520.

THE ULTIMATE TREAT
A day at The Sanctuary in Covent Garden, an idyllic, tropical health spa for ladies only, is something she definitely won't forget. Gift vouchers from £19.50. Tel: 01 836 1020/40 for details. All credit cards accepted.

Focus On.. TAFFETA AND TAILS

LEMMINGS
IMMEDIATE HIRE WEAR
QUALITY SUITS & ACCESSORIES FOR EVERY OCCASION
Evening Suits - Lounge Suits & Morning Wear
2a Market Place, Chalfont St. Peters. Gerrards X 887484
92 Easton Street. High Wycombe 27787
10 Chequers Square, The Pavilion Uxbridge 52001

LADIES EVENING WEAR HIRE
RSVP
Over 200 exclusive Ball, Cocktail and Occasion wear gowns.
Telephone for appointment, day or evening,
EPPING (0378) 77931
Access / Visa welcome.

PARTY
COCKTAIL & EVENING WEAR
BALLGOWNS
BRIDAL + HOLY COMMUNION
PLAZA FASHIONS (MARBLE ARCH)
1A GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE LONDON W1
01-723 3961
10.30 - 7.00 PM
TIMES READERS WILL RECEIVE 20% DISCOUNT ON PRODUCTION OF ADVERTISEMENT

Asthmatic? Dust sensitive
Use the vacuum cleaner Doctors recommend
Medivac
"It could do no other than help people sensitive to dust" THE TIMES 21 Jan 88
VAT FREE for control of dust related conditions
Five Year Guarantee
Interest Free Credit
FREE INFORMATION PACK & PRICES
0625 539401
MEDIVAC (Dept T15)
FREEPOST WILMSLOW CHESHIRE SK9 5YE

The 'Sheila Maid'
Traditional ceiling mounted clothes airer with 4 natural pine rails finished to fit original cast iron ends, double & single pulleys, cleat hook, woven jute pulley cord.
58" £32.50 + £2.50 p&p
84" £42.00 + £3.00 p&p
By mail Cheques Access Visa
Illustrated details from DOMESTIC PARAPHERNALIA Co. Dept. T, 2a Pleasant Street, Lytham Lancs. FY8 5JA. 0253 736334 24hr.

Island Flowers
Boxes of gift wrapped flowers for Christmas
Mixed box or 18 carnations or 30 freesias £5.50, 12 carnations or 24 freesias £8, 10 roses £8.50
Visa/Access. Cheques/PO to Island Flowers with message:
La Bourg, Forest, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Tel: 0481 39165

CULTURED PEARLS
DIRECT FROM IMPORTERS

The Read Molteno Gallery
Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
Come to a Christmas exhibition at this very special Tribal and Folk Art Gallery. Expect to find presents that are fun and different from the Orient, Africa and the Americas.
November 14th - December 30th.
36 West Street, Alresford, Hants.
0962 735352.

FUTONS
DIRECT FROM THE WORKSHOP
PROMPT NATIONAL DELIVERY
XMAS SALE 1/12/89 - 31/1/90
Send now for Free Brochure
SHUCH DESIGN SHEFFIELD
(0742) 759692

BUTLERS
MORNING AND EVENING WEAR HIRE
24 King Street, Reading, Berks — Reading (0734) 573789
14 London Street, Basingstoke, Hants — Basingstoke (0256) 21322

"DREAMS COME TRUE"
BRIDAL AND EVENING WEAR
HIRE AND SALES
TEL: Newbury (0635) 34121
For an appointment

GOWN & OUT
Ladies' Evening Dress Hire
Ball Gowns - Cocktail Wear
Large sizes available
8 - 28
Costs/Jewellery/Glasses/Hats
Phone for appointment
84 Goldsmith Avenue
London W3 6HW
01-993 4777
14 Farlang Road
Downs End
Bucks
(also retail casual wear)
06285 24434

SHOPPING

It's never too late

A guide to those last-minute gifts and other forgotten festive goodies

With just a few shopping days left before Christmas, it is only too easy to panic-buy last-minute presents, *(Nicole Swengley writes)*. Fortunately, there are several companies which can help customers to avoid making ill-considered choices and beat today's last posting date for second class mail and Tuesday's deadline for first class mail.

Londoners who have left Christmas stockings to the last can rely on Neal Street East to come up with instant solutions. Call the shop by 3pm next Saturday, December 23, and its staff will gather together 14 small gifts for girls or boys which can be collected from the shop no later than 6pm. The contents vary but the basic menu is always the same. Girls' stockings include a mini jointed bear, a packet of Japanese waterflowers, an inflatable dragonfly and a sparkling wheel, while the boys' version contains a balloon-propelled racing car, a Chinese trick wallet, a glow-in-the-dark bat and a clockwork toy. All you have to do is provide the sock and pay £11.95 for the contents. Neal Street East is at 5 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 0135). Parents anxious to avoid stereotyping boys and girls can, of course, mix the contents.

Liquid Gifts undertakes to deliver festive wines before Christmas to any address in Britain, as long as orders are taken on its hotline (0800 272121) by Wednesday December 20. New for this year is a gift set comprising two bottles of Californian Inglenook wine from the famous Napa Valley, costing £14.99 including delivery. A variety of other wines and champagnes are also available, with a UK-wide delivery charge of £4.99 for any order of two to five bottles plus the cost of the contents.

Londoners wondering how to stock up their cellars on Christmas Eve can call wine merchants Bibendum to help them out of a tight spot. The shop, at 113 Regent's Park Road, NW1 (01-722 5577), is open from 11am to 6pm on Sunday December 24 and deliveries can be arranged free in London, as long as the driver can reach your home before 6pm. Quality claret, burgundy and champagne are specialities of Bibendum's extensive list and the shop also stocks wine-related accessories such as fancy stoppers, bottle coolers, wicker baskets, glasses, corkscrews and decanters, along with a selection of wine books. Gift vouchers are another alternative for anyone looking for a last-minute gift.

If the idea of surprising a partner or wife on Christmas Day with a present of silk lingerie delivered by a young gent in a tuxedo sounds fun, Soie, Nasira Sheikh's one year-old company, will take calls right up to Christmas Eve to arrange this. French knickers and camisole cost £50, a silk "teddy", £40, and bra, briefs and suspender sets cost £40 each (01-904 6096).

An environmentally-conscious present can be arranged by making one call to Heritage Conserved before Tuesday's first class posting deadline. This non profit-making organization offers 6ft plots in North Wales which they will plant with the tree of your choice — oak, ash, beech, silver birch, rowan or wild cherry. Owners receive legal title to the land, a decorated deed and tree location map for anyone who wants to admire their sapling in the raw. Heritage Conserved pledges to look after the tree for five years, after which nature is allowed to take its course. Plots cost £17.50 each from Heritage Conserved Ltd, Afallon, High Street, Llanfyllin, Powys SY22 5AR (069 184 749).

Another instant "Green" present comes in the shape of gift membership to English Heritage, which cares for more than 350 historic properties including Stonehenge. It will send a Christmas card, guide to English Heritage properties, map and gift token to nominees. Recipients return the gift token to English Heritage to receive a membership card granting free admission to all English Heritage properties and several others including the Tower of London and Hampton Court. The card also gives half-price admission to Welsh properties and to Scottish Historic Buildings and Monuments. A quarterly magazine keeps members informed of special events and concerts. Family membership for one year is £26.50 (free admission for two adults and all children under 21). Individual adult membership costs £14 while membership for two adults at the same address is £24. Membership for retired couples is £17.50 and for those under 16, £7.50. Contact English Heritage Membership Department, PO Box 1BB, London W1A 1BB (01-973 3000).

For a special Hogmanay gift, the National Trust for Scotland's annual subscription is £15 per person, family membership is £24.50, while senior citizens are half price and those under 23, £6. Contact the National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DU (031-226 5922).

Anyone who has left it a bit late to buy a Christmas tree this year will find a selection cut from plantations on the Hatfield House Estate, available for sale up until noon on Christmas Eve at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. The Park is open daily from 8.30am to 5.30pm and from 8.30am to noon on December 24 and the trees cost £1.25 per foot. Hatfield House is 21 miles north of London on the A1000, within easy reach of the M1, M25 and A1(M) and is signposted on roads approaching Hatfield.

SHOPPING

What the smart tree is wearing

Nicole Swengley finds original ideas to make your tree sparkle

There is oo excuse this year for hanging tawdry-looking tree decorations, thanks to imaginative new ideas in the shops.

Cootemporary, upbeat decorations commissioned by the Crafts Council are on sale at its shop in the Victoria & Albert Museum (open Monday to Saturday 10am-5.30pm; Sunday, 2.30-5.30pm).

Felt-and-bead Sputniks and felt spirals by Victoria Brown, from £1.75 each, saltglazed stoneware fashioned into stars by Carole Scott, £4.05, and stained and painted wooden stars, holly and apples by Hilary Brown, £2 each, are also a departure from traditional tree dressing.

Peter Niczewski has produced colourful rhomboids punctuated with rounded steel wires, and Cathy Harris's spangly garlands, from £5.75, make a welcome change from last year's tarnished tinsel.

Louise Slater's delicate PVC white angel, £1.75, is on sale at the Royal Academy shop in Piccadilly along with ceramic stars and moons, £5.95 each, by the American artist Sandi Fenton.

Harrods offers a selection of natural decorations — corn dollies, £3.10, and unpainted wooden animals, £1.50 — and Cliftoo Nurseries and Brats have hanging pine cooe decorations and mini wreaths.

Harvey Nichols has devoted its entire fifth floor to 10 themed tree hangings. Each theme has 20 to 45 different decorations, and some even have matching Christmas stockings. Particularly striking is the "Last Emperor", with red and gold ornaments including oriental figures, junks, lanterns and slippers.

For those who live outside London, Gabriella Di Nora provides a personal shopping service at Harvey Nichols. She will select a set of themed decorations to a budget and send these by Datapost (from £14 plus p&p) for pre-Christmas Eve delivery (order by December 18).

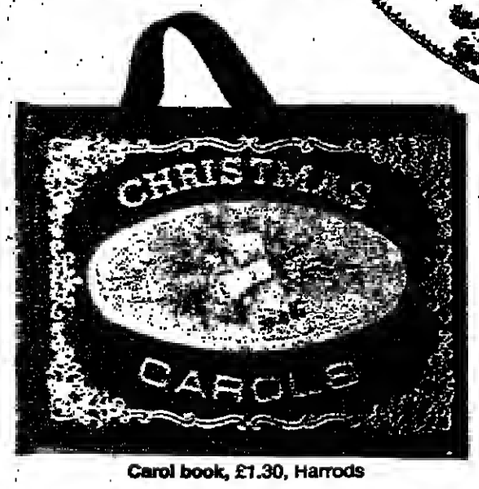
Similarly themed are the tree decorations at House of Fraser stores throughout the country. The nine different topics include "Versailles", with rose paper balls and ivory ballet shoes, and "Dickensian", with musical scrolls, drums, musical soldiers and Victorian paper balls. Prices per decoratioo range from 39p to £11.75.

Pin cushion, £2.90, Harrods

ADDRESS BOOK:
Brats, 281 King's Road, London SW3 (01-351 7674)
Clifton Nurseries, Clifton Villas, W9 (01-289 6851)
Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, SW3 (01-589 7401)
Crafts Council Shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (01-589 5070)
Debenhams, Oxford Street, W1 (01-408 4444)
General Trading Co, 144 Sloane Street, SW1 (01-730 0411)
Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (01-730 1234)
Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1 (01-235 5000)
Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (01-636 1666)
Joanna Wood, 48a Pimlico Road, SW1 (01-730 5064)
Royal Academy of Arts shop, Piccadilly, W1 (01-439 7438)
Sanderson, 52 Berners Street, W1 (01-636 7800)

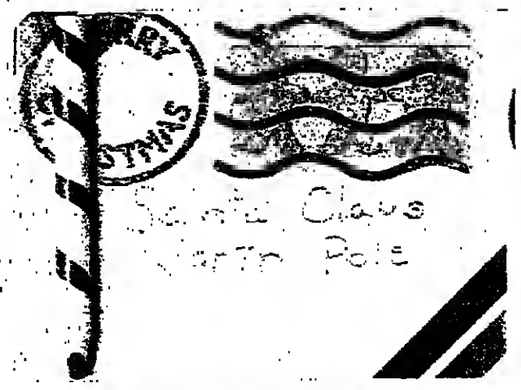
Angel with lyre, £4.30, General Trading Company

Hanging log with berries, £3.50, Clifton Nurseries



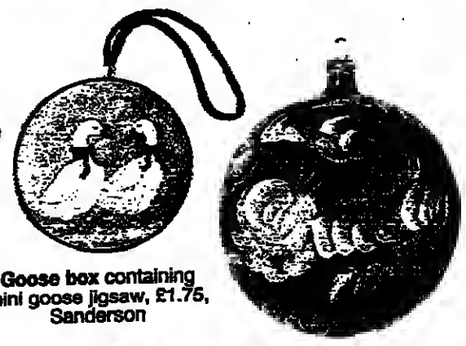
Carol book, £1.30, Harrods

Bunch of berries, 80p, General Trading Company



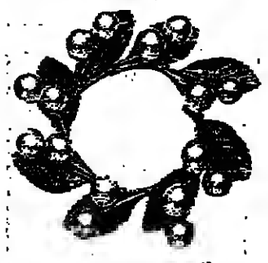
Santa Claus letter, 99p, Debenhams

Wooden bells, £2.45 each, nationwide branches of Laura Ashley



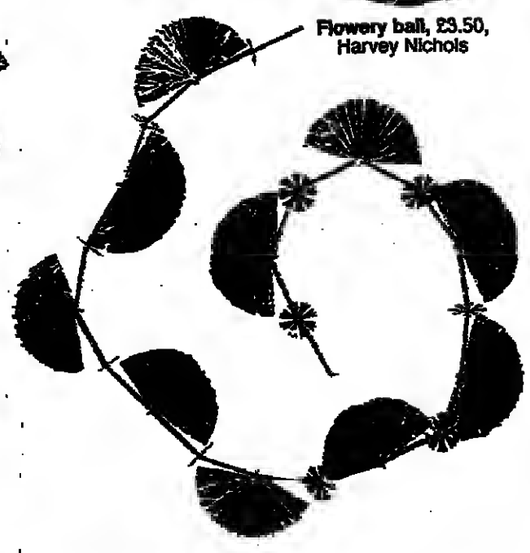
Goose box containing mini goose jigsaw, £1.75, Sanderson

Flowery ball, £3.50, Harvey Nichols



Golden berry wreath, £1.30, Heal's

Stripy satin star, £1.75, Conran Shop



Fan garland, £6.90, by Cathy Harris, Crafts Council Shop

Golden oldies

Dress your tree with imagination, like Shona Crawford Poole, *The Times* travel editor, who makes gilded gingerbread stars

Gilding the gingerbread is a more ancient festive traditioo than turkey and trees. I have been making and gilding gingerbread stars to hang on the tree for three years, and the first batch is still going strong, stored in an airtight box from one season to the next.

The gold for gilding should be the type called *transfer* gold leaf, which is much easier to use than the loose sort. Booklets containing 25 sheets of 3¼in-square transfer gold cost £14.14 each from Cornelissen, 105 Great Russell Street, Londoo WC1B 3RY (01-636 1045). A mail order handling charge of £1.50 is made in additioo to postage.

Gingerbread Stars
(Makes 24 or more)

- 90ml/3fl oz double cream
- 110g/4oz dark brown sugar
- 120ml/4fl oz molasses
- 2tsp ground ginger
- 2tsp ground cinnamon
- ½tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 275g/10oz plain flour

Whip the cream until thick. Add the sugar, molasses, spices and soda and mix well. Add the flour and blend to a stiff dough. Roll out thinly and use a star-shaped biscuit cutter to stamp out stars. Pierce a small hole in one point of each star, oot too near the edge. Arrange them on a greased baking sheet, brush sparingly with water and bake in a preheated moderate oven 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4 for 25 minutes, or until they are well baked. Cool them on the trays for five minutes before transferring them to a wire rack. Leave until cold, then store in an airtight container.

Gild the stars one at a time. Brush the smooth side lightly with egg white, and when it becomes tacky as it starts to dry, lay a sheet of transfer gold over it. Rub it down using the heel of a knife-handle. Gild the reverse side, which is rougher, patching in the gold leaf areas left on the tissue from the smooth side.

Stored in a dry place the stars will keep for several years. If they soften at all in a damp environment, they can be dried again in a cool oven.

Photographs by CHARLES MILLIGAN

Take your Champagne seriously this Season.

SERIOUSLY, IF YOU WANT A PERFECTLY BALANCED CHAMPAGNE TO ENJOY AT NEXT SEASON'S LEADING EVENTS YOU'VE PUT YOUR FINGER ON IT.

VEUVE CLICQUOT.
LA GRANDE DAME DE LA CHAMPAGNE.

THE WEEK AHEAD

In a Latin mood: David Byrne

ROCK
DAVID SINCLAIR

DR JOHN: The eminent New Orleans *Gris Gris* master hacked away like a pub pianist in the corner on his dates at this venue last spring. Jools Holland would have eaten him for breakfast.
Mean Fiddler, London NW10 (01-961 5490) Wed and Thurs.

TEXAS: Back on home turf for the final dates of a hectic year that has seen sales of their *Southside* début go well past the million mark.
Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 226 4679). Wed and Thurs.

SAM BROWN: Like her contemporary, Kim Wilde, she is now much more successful than her famous Dad (Joe) used to be.
Hawth, Crawley (0293 553636) Mon; Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone (0303 53193) Tues; Town & Country, London NW5 (01-284 0303) Wed.

Thankfully, early reports suggest that for his first British concerts in five years, David Byrne has recruited a band which is capable of bringing to life the ambitious Latino arrangements that graced his recent *Rei Momo* album. The 15-piece line-up incorporates Brazilian players alongside the cream of New York's Cuban musical community, and features the Brazilian singer Margareth Menezes. For although the Talking Heads supremo had clearly done his homework in recording such a finely-sketched collection of South American-styled pop, the project, as produced in the studio, had something of an academic air. Byrne has distinguished himself as a cultural adventurer with an eye for detail — witness the African influences on Talking Heads' *Naked*, or the delicate chinoiserie of *The Last Emperor* soundtrack — but his aloof, spiky personality and angular way with a melody make it difficult to forget that he is basically an arty New Yorker on the lookout for new ethnic kicks. Tonight, Town & Country, London NW5 (01-284 0303); tomorrow and Mon, Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 552 4601); Tues and Wed, Brixton Academy, London SW9 (01-326 1022); Fri, Point, Dublin (0001 366777).

JAZZ

ORPHY ROBINSON: Named — somewhat perversely — Best Newcomer at Wire's British Jazz Awards, the vibes player appears with his high-energy septet.
Woolwich Tramshed, London SE18 (01-317 8687) Thur.

PAT METHENY: The guitarist's Latin-influenced confections are inexplicably popular with the crossover crowd.
Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031 228 1155) Mon.

PARTY AGAINST APARTHEID: Jazz Against Apartheid's Christmas party includes a performance by an all-South African band featuring Claude Deppa and Lucky Ranku.
ICA, London SW1 (01-930 6393) Tue.

GEORGE MELLY: Into the third week of his annual residency with John Chilton's Feetwarmers.
Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747) Mon to Sat 31.

FRANK CAMPBELL: Rare outing by the veteran keyboard player, accompanied by Kenny Wheeler (trumpet/flugelhorn) and Barry Guy (bass/percussion).
Jazz Cafe, London N16 (01-359 4936) Wed.

BROADCASTING

PARADISE: A new play by Barry Keeffe which reassesses the traditional view of Robespierre as the villain of the French Revolution. Karl Johnson plays Robespierre, with James Aubrey as Saint Just and Oliver Cotton as Danton.
Radio 3, Tues, 8.45-11pm.

THE SHELL SEEKERS: Angela Lansbury, Anna Carteret and Patricia Hodge lead a splendid cast in an adaption of Rosamunde Pilcher's novel about a mother's relationship with her selfish children.
ITV, Thurs, 3.30-10pm, 10.35-11.05pm.

MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY (1935): Charles Laughton in prime form as Captain Bligh, with Clark Gable as Fletcher Christian, in the lavish MGM version of the famous story which despite its age still eclipses the Marlon Brando and Mel Gibson remakes.
BBC2, Fri, 10.50am-1pm.

THE QUEEN GOES WEST: In 1889 Queen Victoria paid her first visit to Wales. The weather was terrible, the crowds were tony and she was booed. She never went again.
Radio 4, Fri, 4.05-4.30pm.

A DAY TO REMEMBER: A hugely entertaining celebration of the broadcasting career of Sir Robin Day, with many clips of his famous interviews.
BBC2, Fri, 9.30-10.30pm.

THE VERDICT (1982): Fine performances by Paul Newman and James Mason as rival lawyers in a case of medical malpractice. A sharp David Mamet script, smoothly directly by Sidney Lumet.
BBC1, Fri, 10.30pm-12.35am.

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Thoughtful Weber: René Kollo and Karita Mattila as Max and Agathe in the revival of *Der Freischütz*

OPERA
BARRY MILLINGTON

Hard on the heels of Welsh National Opera's new production of Weber's *Der Freischütz*, recently brought by the company to London, comes Covent Garden's revival of the thoughtful staging by Götz Friedrich, first seen in 1977.

Friedrich locates the action firmly in the 17th century, in the period after the Thirty Years' War — the era stipulated by Friedrich Kind, the librettist — though it should not be assumed that such a setting betokens a wholly conventional production. The grizzly, fantastic horrors of this archetypal work of German romanticism are linked explicitly with the political turmoil of the period, and the regality of Prince Ottokar is undermined in characteristic Friedrich fashion. Indeed, one critic of the 1977 production was moved to quote a memorable 19th century translation of Max's exclamation to Kaspar when the eagle is felled by the magic bullet: "Where gottest thou such balls?"

René Kollo returns as Max, and Gwynne Howell as the Hermit. The other roles are taken by newcomers to the production, including the highly promising Finnish soprano Karita Mattila as Agathe, Judith Howarth as her cousin Annchen, Hartmut Welker as Kaspar and Anthony Michaels-Moore as Ottokar. The conducting is once again in the capable hands of Sir Colin Davis. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066), Mon 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: David Pountney's conjuring-trick of a *Hansel and Gretel* returns for Christmas, conducted by Mark Elder, with Ethna Robinson and Cathryn Pope. Wed and Fri at 7.30pm. Meanwhile, outstanding production of Prokofiev's *The Love For Three Oranges* continues on Tues and Thurs at 7.30pm.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

OPERA NORTH: The exciting new production of *Show Boat* on Wed; *The Barber of Seville* tonight and Tues. Both shows start at 7.15pm.
Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 459351).

ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE: Last chance to see Verdi's *Don Carlo* tomorrow at 6pm, produced by Stefan Janski.
RNCM, Oxford Road, Manchester (061 273 4504).

CONCERTS

RUSSIAN EVENING: Andrew Davis conducts the BBC SO in Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kije* Suite, Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No 1 (Dmitri Sitkovetsky, soloist) and Stravinsky's *Petroushka*.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Mon, 7.30pm.

TUBA AND BUMBLE BEE: The RPO is conducted by Arthur Davidson in Kleinsinger's *Tubby the Tuba* (Christopher McShane, tuba), Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumble Bee*, and others.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891), Mon, 7.45pm.

HELP ARMENIA: To help the Aid Armenia fund, the Chilingirian Quartet, including Jeremy Menuhin (piano), perform Schubert's Quintet D956, Dvořák's Piano Quintet and works by Armenian composers.
Wigmore Hall, London W1 (01-935 2141), Wed, 7.30pm.

HELP TADZHIKISTAN: In aid of Red Cross relief for earthquake victims in Soviet Tadzhikistan, the Bekova Sisters Trio play Rachmaninov's Elegiac Trio, Shostakovich's Piano Trio No 2 and Brahms's Trio No 3.
Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Fri, 8pm.

THEATRE

ALADDIN: By Stephen Lee, Tony Conway and Stephen Requena.
LOST Theatre, 450 Fulham Road, London SW6 (01-381 6151). Opens Thurs.

CINDERELLA: Jim Davidson, Jess Conrad, Hilary O'Neil and Charlie Drake head the cast.
Alhambra, Bradford (0274 752000). Opens Thurs.

HARRY'S CHRISTMAS: Dub Theatre presents Steven Berkoff's study of a man spending Christmas alone.
Etcetera, Oxford Arms, 265 Camden High Street, NW1 (01-482 4857). Opens Tues.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER: Una Stubbs as Mrs Malaprop in the classic Goldsmith comedy, directed by James Maxwell.
Royal Exchange, Manchester (061 833 9833). Opens Dec 21. Touring to Nottingham, Bradford, Cambridge, Basildon, Edinburgh and Belfast in February and March.

CIA CABARET: AK47 Company's first production since the still-touring *Hey Nicaragua!*, from 1987.
Corner Theatre, Hen & Chickens pub, Highbury Corner, London N1 (01-226 3724). Opens Tues.

GALLERIES
DAVID LEE

ANDY GOLDSWORTHY: Large colour photographs of delicate and ephemeral environmental sculptures made from leaves, twigs and ice.
Windsor Arts Centre (0753 859421). From today.

DENNIS CREFFIELD: Atmospheric charcoal drawings of all 26 English medieval cathedrals, the result of an Arts Council commission.
Camden Arts Centre, London NW3 (01-435 2643). From today.

ARTISTS IN NATIONAL PARKS: Paintings and sculptures by contemporary British artists as stylistically diverse as Richard Long and Peter Greenham, who were commissioned to produce work based on their experience of national parks.
Exhibition Gallery, Milton Keynes (0908 605536). From today.

ANGELA FLOWERS GALLERY: This gallery's twentieth anniversary is celebrated with a show of works by many predominantly younger artists such as Tony Bevan, Amanda Faulkner and Jonathan Waller.
Concourse Gallery, Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 4141). From today.

Giving the clergy a bad name: Newton's "Parsons Drowning Care"

Richard Newton's 1796 etching "Parsons Drowning Care" follows in a long artistic tradition of portraying the clergy as a bunch of idle, drunken revellers. Hogarth established the genre in England, while Goya reserved some of his most vicious observations for the tyrannical Catholic clergy. Newton's print is in a simpler style than either Hogarth's or Goya's, and would have been popular with itinerant printsellers who toured the countryside hawking humorous sheets. More characteristic of British satire are the savage political lampoons of James Gillray and Thomas Rowlandson, both of whose works later influenced George Grosz in his treatment of German bourgeois venality. It is an occupational hazard of such work that the best artists flirted with illegality and sedition. Indeed Daumier was given six months for portraying Louis Philippe as Gargantua, an insatiably greedy monster. All of the above artists feature in *Folly and Vice: The Art of Satire and Social Criticism*, an exhibition of 135 prints and drawings by 55 artists, which opens today at Bolton Art Gallery (0204 22311) and then tours to York, Exeter and Birmingham.

An alien's fancy: Geena Davis

CINEMA
GEOFF BROWN

When a film is called "a dizzy, glitzy, fish-out-of-water farce about three horny aliens on the make in LA", we know the director cannot be Robert Bresson. **Earth Girls Are Easy** requires someone at the helm with a zany, satirical disposition, and an obsession with popular culture. Who better, therefore, than Julien Temple, British king of music videos, director of *The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle* and the ambitious musical *Absolute Beginners*? The material was developed from a song on Julie Brown's album *Goddess in Progress*, the singer-comedienne co-wrote the script, and appears as the proprietor of the Curl Up and Dye Salon, deep in the Iotus land of San Fernando Valley. But the chief roles go to Geena Davis — a manicurist at the salon — and Jeff Goldblum as an alien from the planet Jhazzala, whose spacesbip crashes into Davis's pool. "Being British, and therefore a sort of alien in LA myself," Temple says, "I thought I could bring to the audience a feel for what these Jhazzalians must have experienced." The film's producer is another "alien" — Tony Garnett, several galaxies away from *Cathy Come Home*. Prince Charles (01-437 8181), from Friday, certificate PG.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CHRIS KILLIP — WORKING AT PIRELLI: Killip, given free range in Pirelli's Burton-on-Trent tyre factory, has produced a fascinating photographic essay on big business and the shopfloor individuals who make the wheels turn.
Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 (01-938 8500), from Tues.

CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY IN WALES: The key factor in this open show is that it has been selected by the young British documentary photographer Martin Parr, whose own view of Britain is at times arresting, cynical and humorous.
Ffotogallery, 31 Charles Street, Cardiff (0222 341667).

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Three week London season opens with a MacMillan programme of *Danses Concertantes*, *Las Hermanas* and *Solitaire* (Tues, Wed); then Thurs to Dec 23, plus Dec 27, 28, Bintley's popular comedy *Hobson's Choice*.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

ROYAL BALLET: MacMillan's *Prince of the Pagodas* stars Viviana Durante on Tues, Darcey Bussell Wed; then Ashton's *Cinderella* (Fri) with Maria Almeida.
Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: Tour of *The Nutcracker* ends today at Royal Centre, Nottingham (0602 482626).

BRIDGE

Not very often do you hear a new suit being introduced at the level of seven *and* on the first round of bidding. Nor is it particularly common that a freely-made opening bid is destined to go eight down. But both of these events occurred at the table recently, and if I hadn't myself been seated at the said table, I would not have believed it. Here is how it happened.

Rubber bridge. Love all. Dealer South.

North: ♠ A Q J 10 7 5 2 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ —
West: ♠ K ♥ A J 8 7 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ Q J 9 8 7
East: ♠ 9 5 ♥ K 10 ♦ 10 5 ♣ A K 10 6 5 3 2
South: ♠ 8 4 3 ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ A K Q J 4 2 ♣ 4

W	N	E	S
	Dunabin		Graham
—	—	—	3NT
4♣	5♣	7♣	Dble
No	No	No	

Now, before you conclude that the players in this school are off their collective tree and start sending for the chaps in white coats, let me explain the bidding. South's opening bid is known as the "gambling three no trump". It denotes a long, solid minor suit and not much else. I am not especially proud of this specimen, because I really should have had one more diamond.

But it had the desired pre-emptive effect of making life difficult for West. His four club bid was for take-out — they were playing one-up over pre-empts — though how he was going to survive a four spade response by his partner doesn't bear thinking about.

But with nary a pause, my partner, civil servant Chris Dunabin, came up with six spades, a spectacular bid that wrong-footed the entire table. His problem was that he didn't know which minor suit I held. If he had known it was diamonds, he might well have bid six diamonds, but with West's bid being conventional I might just as well be holding clubs.

East had a trickier problem. He knew perfectly well that my suit was diamonds, and he must assume that North has the spades solid. He could also work out that one of us was sure to be void in clubs.

Therefore, to defeat six spades his side will have to take two heart tricks, but even if his partner has the ace of hearts (very probable; what else did he have for his bid?), the hand is clearly a freak and what is to stop one of us being singleton (or even void) in hearts? So, hoping for a cheap save, he bid seven clubs, technically the first time clubs had been mentioned as a suit.

It was not hard for us to double this and take our three top tricks. Sadly we shall never know whether, if East had passed, he would have led a heart against six spades. Even good players have been known to try to cash a "certain" trick (in this case a top club) in order to get a look at dummy.

When the gambling three no trump first made its appearance — 55 years ago in West Hampstead — you were supposed to have protection in two of the other suits. But nowadays top players will bid it on seven to an A K Q and nothing else. If partner can't stand it he bids four clubs, and the hand is played at four of whichever the opener's minor suit is. At worst, the gambler takes a small penalty; at best, he steals a game, as on the next deal.

Rubber bridge. Love all. Dealer South.

North: ♠ A J 7 4 3 ♥ 8 6 3 ♦ Q 10 8 2 ♣ 10
West: ♠ K Q 9 8 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ A J 5 4 ♣ 9 5
East: ♠ 10 ♥ 10 9 5 4 2 ♦ 9 7 5 3 ♣ J 4 3
South: ♠ 6 5 2 ♥ K J ♦ K ♣ A K Q 8 7 6 2

South opened three no trumps and everybody passed. West led the spade king, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer didn't want to duck, because he feared a diamond switch and heart return.

At this point, trick two, there is something to be said for running eight tricks and hoping for the best: if clubs are not 3-2 the contract is on the skids anyway. But South was prepared to take a chance for game, so he led a small diamond off the table, hoping to slip past an unwary East holding the ace. When West turned up with the ace, South had no further problems.

Well, the gambling three no trump bidder's courage was rewarded; he bid and made the only game possible for his side. But by the same token West was cowardly. He should double the bid, forcing North to make the safety removal to four clubs. It is a neat example of the Rixi Markus "Bid boldly, play safe" school of bridge. South bid boldly, and won; West didn't, and lost.

John Graham

CHESS

This week I celebrate Kasparov's amazing result at Belgrade, where he finished three points ahead of a powerful field and pushed his rating to an unprecedented 2810. The tournament table (below) makes the scale of his triumph clear. ("1" signifies a win, "0" a loss, and "=" a draw.)

White: Gary Kasparov; Black: Jan Timman. Bogo-Indian Defence, Belgrade, November 1989.

1 d4	Nf6	2 c4	e6
3 Nf3	Bb4+	4 Bd2	Bxd2+
5 Qxd2	0-0	6 g3	d5
7 Bg2	Qe7	8 0-0	Nc6
9 Rc1	c6	10 Qe3	Bd7
11 Nbd2	Be8	12 Nb3	Nbd7
13 Na5	Rab8	14 Rab1	Rdc8
15 cxd5	Nxd5	16 Qc2	c5
17 e4	N5b6	18 e5	h6
19 e3	Na5	20 Nc4	Rc8
21 Qe1	cxd4	22 Nxd4	Nc5
23 Rd1	Nfe6	24 Nd6	Ne6
25 Rbc1	Na4	26 Nxb7	Rxb7

Typically for his ferocious style, Kasparov, rather than squeeze his opponent to death, has opted for violent complications.

27 Bxb7	Qxb7	28 Nxe6	Rxd1
29 Qxd1	Nab6		

Black cannot play 29...fxe6 on account of 30 Qd8.

30 Rc7	Qe4

Now Timman is able to generate serious counterplay. Kasparov would have been better advised to shun further adventures with 30 Nd4, consolidating his advantage.

31 Qd8	Qe1+	32 Kg2	Qe4+
33 Kg1	Qe1+	34 Kg2	Qe4+
35 f3	Qe2+	36 Kh3	Qb5
37 a4	Qxa4	38 Ne5	Qb5
39 Nd7	Qf1+	40 Kg4	Nd6

With both players on the edge of a precipice, comes a brilliant resource. Here 41 exd6 allows 41...f5+ exploiting the White king's peregrinations.

41 Nf6+	gxf6	42 exd6	h5+
43 Kh4	Qe2	44 h3	Kg7
45 Re7	Qb5	46 f4	Bd7

Black's threat of ...Qf5 appears to give him the upper hand, but now it is Kasparov's turn to come up with an amazing defensive resource.

47 Re5!!	

This astounding move effects a rescue for if 47...fxe5 48 Qg5+ Kf8 49 Qe7+ draws. Timman tries to avoid this, but Kasparov's 48th move forces the same variation.

47 —	Qf1	48 Rg5+	fxg5+

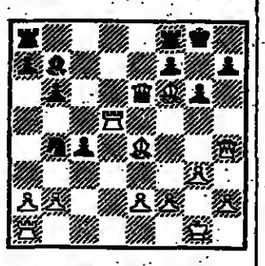
Draw agreed

● *With Christmas approaching, the moment has come to announce my choice of book of the year. This must be* Alekhine's Greatest Games *(Batsfords, £14.95). This is a compilation of masterpieces by one of the greatest geniuses of attack, a man who inspired Kasparov himself. Chess computers are an ever popular gift. Dixons stocks the Saitek/Kasparov range, while Novag and Mephisto machines can be obtained from the London Chess Centre, 58 St John's Hill, London SW11 (01-978 5160). For all chess gifts, reliable sources are also* The British Chess Magazine, *9 Market St, St Leonards, Sussex, or Pergamon Chess, Sutton Coldfield (021 354 2536).*

INVESTBANKA TOURNAMENT — BELGRADE, NOVEMBER

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1	Kasparov	x	1	=	=	1	=	1	1	1	1	1	1	9.5
2	Ehlvest	0	x	=	=	=	=	=	1	=	1	=	1	6.5
	Timman	=	=	x	1	=	=	=	1	=	=	=	=	6.5
4	Jusupov	=	=	0	x	=	=	=	0	=	1	1	1	6
	Ljubojevic	0	=	=	=	x	=	1	1	=	0	=	1	6
6	Hjartarson	=	=	=	=	=	x	1	1	=	0	0	=	5.5
7	Agdestein	0	=	=	=	0	0	x	1	0	1	=	1	5
	Kozul	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	x	1	1	1	1	5
9	Nikolic	0	=	=	=	=	=	1	0	x	=	=	0	4.5
	Short	0	0	=	0	1	1	0	0	=	x	1	=	4.5
11	Popovic	0	=	=	0	=	1	=	0	=	0	x	=	4
12	Damljanovic	0	0	=	0	0	=	0	0	1	=	=	x	3

WINNING MOVE



In the diagram, a variation from Alekhine's win against Bogolyubov, Triberg 1921, White to play wins.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times* Winning Move Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a *Times* wallet-sized personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in *The Times* next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Bxh7+ for if 1...Kxh7 2 Rg4 f6 3 Qh5+ Kg8 4 Rxg7+ Kxg7 5 Bh6+ and Black is helpless.

Solution to last Saturday's position: White wins with 1 Rxd7.

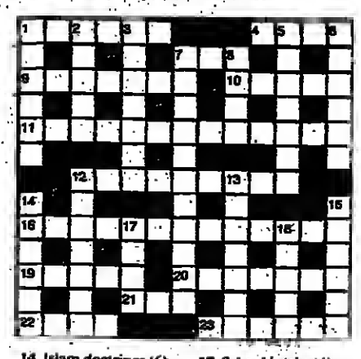
The three winners of *The Times* personal chess computers are: W. A. Skinner, Torquay, Devon; Mrs R. M. Stone, Hendon, London NW4; George Unwin, Farnham, Surrey.

Raymond Keene

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2054

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 21. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 23.



ACROSS
1 Truman —, US writer (6)
4 Partially linked house (4)
7 Eisenhower (3)
9 EC nuclear energy authority (7)
10 Benefit (5)
11 Pope follower (5,8)
12 Express (4,5)
16 Bun the Baker card game (5,8)
19 Mrs — Gorbachov (5)
20 Michael Meadowcroft party (7)
21 Gleam (3)
22 Throbbing pain (4)
23 Sikh line bowler (6)

DOWN
1 Gladdens (6)
2 Hanian delivery holiday (5)
3 Lockjaw (7)
5 5th brightest star (7)
6 Whole (6)
7 Without fear or favour (11)
8 Apiece (4)
12 Obsessed with fashion (7)
13 Friendly (7)
14 Islam doctrines (6)
15 Straight-edged stone (6)
17 School intake (4)
18 Act against property (2,3)

SOLUTION TO NO 2053

ACROSS: 8 Ruderal 9 Leave 10 Ono 11 Death star 12 Yobbo 14 Tumbler 17 Crackle 19 Rufus 22 Evergreen 24 Imp 25 Gigot 26 Kitchen

DOWN: 1 Argosy 2 Adverb 3 Gridlock 4 Clear the decks 5 Blah 6 Pastel 7 Nearer 13 Oer 15 Marinate 16 Emu 17 Clergy 18 Avenge 20 Flight 21 Supine 23 Goth

The winners of prize concise No 2048 are Mr J.E. Tobin, Mornington Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Mrs V. Lunt, Station House, Ledbury, Hereford.

SOLUTION TO NO 2048 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Vacate 4 Reef 7 Tom 9 Shikoku 10 Aleph 11 Gloomy picture 12 All on edge 16 Make allowance 19 Koala 20 Egghead 21 Bay 22 Dude 23 Prison

DOWN: 1 Visage 2 Chino 3 Trammel 5 Execute 6 Fuhrer 7 Tin Pan Alley 8 Marc 12 Awkward 13 Dowager 14 Smoked 15 Leaden 17 Ahab 18 Needs

Name .....

Address .....

● SNOOKER 45
● RACING 46 47
● EQUESTRIANISM 46
● SPORTS BOOK 48

THE TIMES
SPORT | TRAVEL & LEISURE
SECTION 4
SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1989

Durie returns for a stern test of Chelsea's calibre

By Clive White

The return to the Chelsea side of Gordon Durie, following a second hernia operation in six months, could not have been better timed today as the London club, shaken by two consecutive defeats, feel the force of Liverpool.

It may be ao ominous sign for the rest of the first division that Liverpool's uncharacteristic poor health is beginning to improve, with the return to the squad of Hansen, Nicol, Venison and Burrows. But given the parlous state of Luton Town, Arsenal should retain their two-point lead at the head of championship.

Kenny Dalglish, who has been unable even to announce a squad for the last two matches because of injuries to as many as eight players, yesterday added the names of the four already meotioned to the 13 on duty last week for the match at Stamford Bridge.

It means Barnes, who suffered a recurrence of an old hamstring injury and consequently missed England's international at Wembley on Wednesday, may be fit to continue, though Dalglish would give no clues as to his starting line-up.

It has transpired that Nicol, who has been out of action for more thao two mooths, has been troubled by more than a oeck injury, which was the reason initially given for his exteoded abseoce. Dalglish confirmed yesterday that the player, a vital driving force

More football, page 45

when fully fit, had had a minor knee operation.

"Steve's neck was sore and he was not going to be playing so we took the opportunity to have his knee problem looked at," Dalglish said.

Valued though the contributioo is of Nicol and Hansen to the team, it is oot so much the lack of quality that has disrupted Liverpool's rhythm as the lack of continuity. A settled Liverpool team is always a formidable proposition and Chelsea will be relieved to meeting the Merseysiders while they are still in a state of comparative flux.

Chelsea can hardly expect anything other than a positive display by Liverpool after certain comments made by Dalglish condemning the negative attitude of some of their rivals this season. Astoo Villa's reaguard action last week in coming away from Aofield with a draw clearly aonoyed him.

"Most of the teams who have come to Anfield this season have been prepared to settle for a point. Even when we have been away form home I have noticed that some sides have teoded to do that as well. This is something we must accept as a compliment. However, if we adopted the same attitude it would be pretty boring."

Bobby Campbell, the Chelsea manager, is one who should not want for motivation today. It is the first time that Campbell, born and bred on Merseyside and once a Liverpool player, has managed a team against them. Offering a fairly simplistic analysis of the Liverpool success story, he said: "They sign the best players and then get 110 per cent effort from each of them".

The return of Donaghy to Luton on a month's loan has come just in time. Luton are still without three first-choice centre balves and will also lack the services of Wilson, their captain, and Preece, who is suspended, at Highbury. Donaghy will be making his 411th appearance for Luton 14 months after leaving the club to join Manchester United for a fee of £850,000.

Should Donaghy prove to have lost nothing other than a little confidence the Bedfordshire club will doubtless be encouraged to make the move more permanent. Donaghy is well experienced in the sort of uphill struggle which faces Luton, who are grateful that Kennedy and Black are now fit to resume.

Arsenal, are likely to field the same team which won at Coventry last week, but have added Davis to their squad. Davis, whose career has seemed to be on a downward spiral since the day he suffered a nine-match suspension for punching Cockerill, of Southampton, last season, has been struggling with injury for most of this campaign.

"Paul has had a few games io the reserves. He is itching to get back and this is giving him the opportunity to do that," George Graham, the Arsenal manager said.

Palace head home on their away-day

By Louise Taylor

The Crystal Palace players spent last night closeted in a hotel from where they will be whisked by coach to today's first division away game. Their destination? Selhurst Park. In physical terms, Palace are on home territory, but from the viewpoint of the League's computer they are the guests of Charlton Athletic, the club sharing their south London ground, and who will consign them to the visitors' dressing-room this afternoon.

Rarely do lodgers have such an opportunity to upstage landlords, and Charlton, whose return to The Valley is the subject of several severe hitches, intend to make the most of it.

As Lennie Lawrence, the manager, put it: "It will be a unique afternoon. I just hope it is a good game, and there are no problems on or off the field."

With Palace confined to the second division until the present season, this is the first time in more than three years of cohabitation that the pair have faced each other on League business at Selhurst.

Unless both teams stumble upon some semblance of consistency, they could be meeting in second division circumstances next term. While only Manchester City form the thinnest of cushions between Charlton and the first division floorboards, Palace, three places higher, are in a pretty uncomfortable position, too.

Charlton are hampered by the injuries which deprive them of McLaughlin, Pates, Mackenzie, once of Palace, and Ferguson, on loan from Hearts. So the exciting, if erratic, Achampong continues in attack and Caton stays out of the reserves and in the heart of defence.

It is hard to recall how, as a 16-year-old first-teamer with Manchester City, Caton was spoken of as a future England centre half. Nevertheless, he can burnish a fast fading reputation by keeping Wright and Bright in check, which is more than Manchester United managed last week.

Palace supporters appear to be revelling in the absurdity of the situation. In an attempt to simulate the atmosphere of an away trip a group have hired a coach to transport them on a tour of south London before arrving at Selhurst for kick-off.

Swedish backhander: Mats Wilander concentrates during yesterday's tense Davis Cup tie against Carl-Uwe Steeb.

Wilander anchors Sweden

From Andrew Longmore
Tennis Correspondent
Stuttgart

Mats Wilander exorcised the ghosts of Christmas past when he beat Carl-Uwe Steeb, of West Germany, 5-7, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, in the opening singles match of the Davis Cup final

It was a repeat of last year's epic, which Steeb won from two sets to love down. But whereas 12 months ago their match had a long, slow change of fortune, yesterday's took sudden inexplicable turns.

Having led 5-2 in two of the first three sets, Wilander, as is his wont these days, managed to turn potential victory into the nerve-jangling prospect of defeat by winning ooly one of them. He should have had the match wrapped up long before he finally did so after an exhausting four hours and 42 minutes.

Despite their youth, the Swedes can consider themselves the elder statesmen of the Davis Cup. This is their seventh successive final and they have won the cup three times in the last five years. But rarely can they have experienced an atmosphere of such passion as they have fouod here in Stuttgart.

A crowd of 10,500 is crammed into the Schleyer-Halle, which is normally used as a cycle track, and they have paid over £3 million in gate receipts over the three days for the privilege of watching Germany attempt to retaio the cup. Only the Swedes, with a few of their own supporters tucked into the nether reaches of the stands, can ruin their dream.

Every point won by a German player is accompanied by a crescendo of applause, sometimes spontaneous, often choreographed into a rhythmic and intimidating beat. The Davis Cup is peculiarly suitable to the German mentality. Each point is won not by Steeb or Wilander, Becker or Edberg, but by West Germany or Sweden. For once, in tennis, the individual is submerged in the team and the locals understand that group identity.

Wilander will also welcome the feeling of common purpose the Davis Cup inspires. During his vital opening match against Carl-Uwe Steeb, his team-mates lived every point with him, which must have been a considerable comfort.

Wilander has suffered a wretched year on his own. He reached the exalted heights of No. 1 in the world and found it a brief and lonely experience. Having a team to enjoy success and spread the load of failure must have given him heart as he faced a match which, quite apart from reviving horrific memories of a year ago, could hold the key to the destiny of this year's Davis Cup.

Steeb had other problems to bear. He is the "lokalmatador", as they say here. Roughly translated it means "local fighter". It is a good description, not just because he was born and brought up in Stuttgart, the city they call "the grey mouse of Germany", but because he still plays the rugged untutored game of the street fighter.

His forehand is a formidable weapon, much like Becker's in its massive wind-up and awesome power. The rest of his game serves purely as an entrée to that main course.

Wilander, with a wise head on relatively young shoulders, played to Steeb's backhand wherever possible. But watching Wilander these days is like watching an amateur tightrope walker. Just as he inches his way into an area of safety, he wobbles, sometimes losing his balance completely, sometimes recovering in time to reach the haven of the other side.

Where in 1988, the year he became world champion, his game was consistent steel, now it is a mixture of steel and cotton wool and no one is quite sure which is coming next.

He served for the set in each of the first four sets against Steeb, lost three out of those four games but managed to retrieve the second set by winning the tie-break imperiously, and make no mistake with the fourth to level the match for the second time after four hours.

The first set was vintage Wilander 1989. Having won 10 straight points to put himself 5-2 ahead, he lost 20 out of the next 21 poiots to forfeit the set and, many presumed, the initiative in the whole tie.

TRAVEL

ULTIMATELY AWAY FROM IT ALL

Life is so relaxed on St Kitts and its sister island of Nevis that just doing nothing is enough. That suits Michael Watkins splendidly. He returned there recently to discover there were plans to develop part of the island as a resort complex, so if it's life in the slow lane you're after, his advice is to go to Nevis sooner rather than later.
Page 51

LAST STOP BEFORE THE ALPS

The Trentino region of northern Italy is rich in history and independent of spirit, the last outpost of Mediterranean climate. Around the shores of Lake Garda, Martin Cropper observed the modern day invaders who had come to bronze in the sun and windsurf across the breezy waters. More quiet was the Dolomite Nature Reserve where the woodlands are carpeted with mushrooms.
Page 49

SKIING WITH THE MASTERS

It is quite a thrill, once you have overcome the embarrassment, to have an Olympic gold medallist skiing patiently backwards into a mini-blizzard while you concentrate on improving your turns, writes Patricia Davies. She went on a course in Colorado run by the ski twins Phil and Steve Mahre and reports on her accomplishments.
Page 50

Australian athletes up in arms

Adelaide (AP) — A possible boycott of next month's Auckland Commonwealth Games was being considered as a dispute over the size of the Australian track and field team continued, David Prince, the president of Athletics Auatralia, said yesterday.

Prince reaffirmed his organization's refusal to meet a demand from the Australian Commoowealth Games Association (ACGA) to cut 15 athletes from the 85-strong team chosen to compete in New Zealand. "We have no intention of changing the team. As far as Athletics Australia is concerned the team will stay at 85," he said.

The ACGA has demanded Athletics Australia trim the team to 70 athletes — the oumber the organization estimated last May would be going to Auckland — but has admitted there are no financial or logistical reasons why the team should be cut.

Anger at the ACGA grew yesterday and Prince said his organization planned a detailed statement early next week after "seeking certain facts and information". Athletics Australia is believed to have asked its legal advisers for a full summary on its legal position in the event that the battle ends up in the courts.

Prince said he could oot rule out the possibility of a boycott. "I had some athletes speak to me yesterday and say they would rather run in Europe than bother going to Auckland," he said.

In Canberra, a spokesman for Graham Richardson, the federal Sports Minister, said he was watching developments closely but had no plans to intervene.

Financial problems place Student Games in doubt

By John Goodbody

The World Student Games in Sheffield have run into a cash flow difficulty. Organizers were putting a brave face on things yesterday, insisting that the biggest multi-sports event in Britain since the 1948 Olympics would still be staged in Sheffield in 1991.

Peter Price, the deputy leader of Sheffield City Council and chairman of Universiad (Great Britain Limited), admitted yesterday that there was a "short-term problem because of a cash-flow difficulty. But steps are already being taken to examine finances and find a way forward with regard to funding." A spokeswoman for the Games said she could not comment on reports that the organizers had almost exhausted its £1 million overdraft at the bank and would be unable to pay the wage bills of the staff next month.

Referring to the attempt to raise more than £30 million to run the event, Price said: "Obviously we had hoped to have at least ooe major sponsor by the end of the year but we have been unable to do that.

"All games of this nature have similar problems but sponsorship is just one element of the financing of the Games."

David Heslop, the Tory opposition leader of Sheffield City Council, said: "My worry is the council have not beeo informed about this. We want to know why we are running out of money at this stage and how the organizers plan to sort it out."

The City Council has already underwritten the cost of the facilities, which will total at least £111 million.

Much of the problem in fund-raising at this stage has been that the final details of televisioo agreements throughout the world have yet to be settled. This has precluded many deals being finalised with sponsors. The Sports Council has already given £3 million towards the event and the Universiad Limited had hoped that £6 millioo would come from cash sponsorship, £12 million in product sponsorship and £9 million from ticket sales, merchandising and the selling of rights to products.

Cruel trick of cancellation

From Ray Robinson, Val Gardena

The start to the European World Cup skiing season has been marred by injury and the lack of natural snow cover. But the weather played a particularly cruel trick on the organizers of the first men's downhill of the season here.

The running of the 200th downhill race was transferred from Val d'Isere io France after the FIS decided that the La Daille course had too little man-made snow to hold the premier neige.

Although injuries blighted the training runs in Val Gardena, many racers described the course as "perfect".

But race day dawned overcast and warm with temperatures in the start area reaching +3°. A strong overnight wind blew debris on to the top part of the course, and forced the postponement of the race start.

At 1.15pm, when temperatures in the finish area had reached +5°, the organizers announced the cancellation of the race.

The reason was based on the texture of the man-made snow. When temperatures rise above freezing, the artificial snow breaks down and skis canoot glide smoothly over the surface.

With racers' safety paramount in the minds of the organizers after the injury to 13 World Cup skiers so far this season, the FIS technical delegate decided that yesterday's event should not go ahead.

It is the third downhill to be cancelled on the European circuit this season due to weather conditions and, if the weather stays constant bere overnight, today's official Val Gardena downhill may also have to be called off.

Should today's event go ahead under warm conditions, any one of the Italian A team could cause an upset. They have been experimenting with a new ski wax preparation, appropriately called "Wet Jet", and the results have been extremely encouraging.

But given a cold overnight spell and clearing weather, Pirmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, who kept everyone guessing by slowing down on the final leg of the four training runs, will be the skier to watch.

Simon Barnes's Sporting Diary, page 10

Stalemate threatens new league

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The start of the Welsh Rugby Union's national league next season is threatened by the withdrawal of the 18 merit table clubs, unless the impasse between them and the WRU can be resolved swiftly. The two remain at loggerheads after a meeting on Thursday, though another meeting is scheduled for next Thursday.

In a letter to the union the clubs say: "The terms as set out in your letter for participating in the national league structure are unacceptable to the merit table clubs and, at this moment in time, they are not prepared to participate in season 1990-91."

But, in a novel twist to what is rapidly becoming a far from entertaining saga, the West Wales Rugby Union has also written to the WRU confirming that the merit table clubs' formula for running the leagues is unacceptable to them, since it denies them an equal say in the management organisation.

Glan Tucker, the chairman of the merit table clubs, said: "From an outright 'no' to leagues, to conceding 98 per cent of what we stood for, we don't think we are asking too much to organise the leagues. The difference is so small: we have surrendered everything but the union have dug in their heels. All along the WRU have said they wanted our expertise to help run the leagues but now they won't let us manage them."

Should they refuse to take part in a competition which has received official WRU approval, the merit table clubs could be expelled from union membership.

FROM GRACE TO BOTHAM
Fifty Master Cricketers From THE TIMES
Chosen and introduced by Kenneth Gregory

FROM GRACE TO BOTHAM
illustrates the careers of fifty of the greatest cricketers over more than a hundred years as reported in *The Times*.
The pages capture many moments of high sporting achievement, social history and human comedy.

£16.95

Available through bookshops or in case of difficulty from
TIMES BOOKS
16 Golden Square, London W1

RUGBY UNION: BATTLE TO AVOID THE DIVISIONAL WOODEN SPOON IS AN UNACCUSTOMED OFFERING FOR THE WEST COUNTRY

Heavy going a trial of strength for North and London

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Whatever one's view of the divisional championship, the order of fixtures this month has produced a genuine climax today in that the two unbeaten sides, London – the holders of the Toshiba trophy – and the North, meet for this season's title at Otley while the wooden spoon between the South and South-West and the Midlands will be determined at Bath, where they are not accustomed to such lowly offerings.

However, London have lost two England players, Ackford to illness and Bates to injury. Ackford's place in the second row goes to Edwards, deposed after last week's defeat of the South-West in favour of O'Leary, while Luxton, who replaced Bates during the course of the game at Imber Court, retains the scrum half position.

Ackford's absence may be important since the North have Dooley and Kimmins restored to health but overriding even the outcome of the game at Otley will be the knowledge that England's management choose a squad of 28 this weekend for training at Lanzarote next month before the start of the five nations' championship.

The manager and coaches to the A and B national sides gather at Otley, leaving John Elliott, the national selector, to brood over the game at Bath, where Teague, the Gloucester flanker, may also be missing because of illness.

There could also be an inhibiting factor in the shape of the weather at Otley. Though they have not had too much snow, there has been heavy rain, which may put a premium on the strength of a player such as Morris, the North scrum half. At least the Londoners bring their own guides, in the shape of Carling, Andrew, Clough, Olver and Skinner, all of whom have northern associations.

In theory, London's international experience, notably at stand-off, should bring them through to a tight finish but the North are, notoriously, no respecters of theory. They will try to tie down the London back row then give something for their wings to chase; indeed, it will be helpful to the selectors if they can give Pilgrim, London's full back, the stiffest possible examination.

London have yet to live up to their strength on paper this season; they have won their two games so far with something in hand but, as Pegler, their captain, admits: "Everybody's a bit disappointed. We are some way from the standard we set last year."

The selectors will be slightly worried that Moore, the British Isles hooker, has missed the entire championship for the Midlands. A knee injury sustained playing for the Barbarians against New Zealand last month is improving only slowly and Moore said: "I don't think it's a major problem but I want to try to get in a game over Christmas because the club then have a cup match and after that we're into the international season."

AT OTLEY
NORTHERN DIVISION: S Langford (Orrell); N Heslop (Orrell), G Childs (Northern), B Bailey (Wakefield), R Underwood (Leicester); D Pears (Harlequins), D Morris (Liverpool St Helens); M Whitcombe (Sale), N Hitchen (Orrell), D Southern (Orrell, captain), S Hodgson (Sale), R Kimmins (Orrell), W Dooley (Preston Grasshoppers), P Winterbottom (Harlequins), C Cusani (Orrell).

LONDON DIVISION: S Pilgrim (Wasps); S Smith (Wasps), F Clough (Wasps), W Carling (Harlequins), E Davis (Harlequins); R Andrew (Wasps), C Luxton (Harlequins); P Rendall (Wasps), J Olver (Harlequins), J Probyn (Wasps), M Skinner (Harlequins), N Edwards (Harlequins), S O'Leary (Wasps), D Pegler (Wasps, captain), B Clarke (Saracens).
Referee: B Anderson (Scotland).

AT BATH
SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST DIVISION: J Callard (Bath); A Swift (Bath), S Halliday (Bath, captain), J Guscott (Bath), J Fallon (Richmond), M Hamlin (Gloucester), R Hill (Bath); A Sharp (Bristol), K Dunn (Gloucester), R Pascall (Gloucester), M Teague (Gloucester), N Redman (Bath), J Etheridge (Gloucester), A Robinson (Bath), D Sims (Gloucester).

MIDLAND DIVISION: S Hodgkinson (Nottingham, captain), G Evans (Leicester), T Baltimore (Leicester), I Bates (Leicester), F Packman (Northampton); A Sutton (Nottingham), B Gabriel (Nottingham), M Linnett (Moseley), T Thacker (Leicester), G Pearce (Northampton), J Wells (Leicester), S Lloyd (Moseley), D Hindmarsh (Nottingham), G Rees (Nottingham), T Rodber (Northampton).
Referee: F Howard (Liverpool).

High hopes: Dooley is restored to health and raring to go

Rhondda trip suits Neath

Neath, the holders of the Schweppes Welsh Cup, travel to Ystrad Rhondda today in the fourth round of this season's competition (David Hands writes).

Despite the assistance their junior opponents have received from Mike Griffiths, the Wales and British Isles prop, Neath should be comparatively untroubled and go into tomorrow's draw.

So too should Llanelli, last season's beaten finalists, who are at Senghenydd with Julian Williams, at No 8, making his 15th appearance in 16 games this season. Bonymaen, who beat Maesteg in the third round, have the assistance of Dacey, the former Wales stand-off half, against Tumble.

Clement, the Welsh stand-off half, has recovered from a calf injury, sustained playing for the Barbarians against New Zealand, and returns for Swansea against Treorchy while Bridgend, at home to Dunvant, make light of a crop of injuries to back-row players, by choosing Gareth Williams at No 8 for his 501st game for the club.

Clive Norling has been appointed to referee Ireland's game against Scotland in Dublin on February 3; it will be his 21st international, two behind Kevin Kelleher of Ireland and Gwynne Walters of Wales and one behind Meirion Joseph of Wales.

It will be Norling's 13th successive season on the Welsh international panel, which is unchanged from last season; the other two are Les Peard, who will handle the Leicester-Barbarians game on December 27, and Derek Bevan.

Ring and Pugh are left out of Welsh party for Portugal

By David Hands

Only two of the players who appeared against New Zealand last month have failed to win places in the Welsh squad which will spend a week training in Portugal from January 3 to 10, in preparation for the five nations' championship.

Ring, the Cardiff centre, and Pugh, the Neath flanker, are omitted, though further players may yet be added to the 26 names announced yesterday.

Ring's relationship with the national team management has occasionally been stormy, while Pugh's demotion confirms the theory that his was a "horses for courses" choice against the All Blacks.

The entire Llanelli back row will go to Portugal, which means places in the national squad for the first time for Perego and Julian Williams.

Titley, the Swansea wing whose last cap was three years ago, is recalled to a squad which includes seven uncapped players – Ceri Jones, Aled Williams and Booth in the backs; Brian Williams, Allen, Perego and Julian Williams in the forwards.

Thorburn is the only full back chosen, though Swansea hinted this week that they may try Clement in that position, rather than at stand-off half, if only to restore his confidence after a period of injury.

Bridgend have lost the services of Griffiths, the British Isles prop forward, after seven seasons. He is to move to Cardiff, where he will join two international front-row colleagues, Watkins and Young, and may yet be joined by Hall, the centre who was connected with Cardiff last season.

"I need a change, a fresh start and a new challenge," Griffiths said. He hopes to be fit to play for his new club on Boxing Day.

WELSH TRAINING SQUAD: Backs: P Thorburn (Neath), A Emyr (Swansea), C Davies (Llanelli), M Titley (Swansea), M Hall (Bridgend), C Jones (Pontypridd), N Davies (Llanelli), D Evans (Cardiff), A Clement (Swansea), A Williams (Bridgend), R Jones (Swansea), A Booth (Cardiff). Forwards: K Phillips (Neath), I Watkins (Cardiff), M Griffiths (Bridgend), H Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), D Young (Cardiff), B Williams (Neath), P Davies (Llanelli), G Llewellyn (Neath), K Moseley (Pontypool), A Allen (Newbridge), M Jones (Neath), G Jones (Llanelli), M Perego (Llanelli), J Williams (Llanelli).

Edinburgh facing sternest of tests

By Alan Lorimer

The defending champions, Edinburgh, face what will probably be their sternest test in the McEwan's inter-district title today, at Cambridge against the Anglo-Scots, who are one of the strongest challengers in the competition this season.

Edinburgh have been less than convincing in their previous two matches, especially against the North and Midlands when they allowed their opponents to come back into the game and all but forfeited two championship points.

They were not much better against Glasgow and only a late penalty goal, by Peter Steven, salvaged a draw. Admittedly, Edinburgh have been without their Scotland prop, Iain Milne, who was so influential last season, and Jim Calder, who is still one of the best ball winners in the Scottish game, is also absent.

For today's match, they have given their back division more cutting edge with the addition of Cameron Glasgow at full back, where he played in this match last season for the Anglos, and the Scotland B wing, Alex Moore. That would seem to suggest that Edinburgh will want to move the ball wide and use their Scotland midfield trio of Doug Wyllie, Sean Lineen and Scott Hastings to the maximum.

The Anglos back division was tested little in defence against South but on the one occasion the Borderers did win good ball in an attacking position, Andy Douglas ran through the middle for what seemed an easy try. The Anglos are missing their two Scotland B centres, Ruari Maclean and Tim Exeter, through injury and that will put a big responsibility on Donald Caskie, of Gloucester, and Alan Warwood.

The Anglos, who are coached by the former Scotland flanker, David Leslie, will want to play the game up front where they have massive strength with four of the Scotland pack who played against Romania in addition to Adam Buchanan-Smith, who came on as a replacement against Fiji, and the Scotland B captain, Jeremy Macklin.

HOCKEY

Champions diluted for Scots event

From Sydney Friskin
The Hague

England's indoor team in the HDM tournament here is geared to the highlight of the domestic season, the international tournament on January 20 and 21 at Crystal Palace, where they will face opposition from Scotland, Wales and Austria.

This tournament, however, poses a problem for St Albans, who have been invited to play in the Glenfiddich tournament in Glasgow on January 13 and 14 and whose Halliday, Jennings and Wisherwill be on a training weekend with England.

National calls take priority but it is unfair on St Albans to present themselves in Glasgow as English champions while under strength.

East Grinstead will be in the Glenfiddich tournament without Leman and Clift, members of England's World Cup outdoor squad, which has been barred from indoor tournaments until after the World Cup.

The last-32 stage of the Royal Bank of Scotland national indoor club championship on January 7 has fallen flat without the World Cup outdoor players, seriously hampering the chances of other leading clubs, Hounslow, Havant and Old Loughtonians.

Southgate have shown little regard for the national indoor club championship by their late withdrawal from the last-32 stage in order to play in the Los Reyes outdoor tournament in Barcelona, a decision which has brought a strong reaction from the Southern Counties Hockey Association.

Southgate's vacancy in pool four of the indoor club championship has been given to Slough, although they were beaten by Khalsa in the south qualifying round. Slough were favoured apparently because of their having won the title four times.

ICE HOCKEY

Dampier settles on his squads

Alex Dampier, the British coach, has named squads for the two games against Belgium (Norman de Mesquita writes).

The squad for Nottingham on December 28 will include five players who did not appear against Davos earlier this month – Martin McKay, Moray Hanson, Paul Heavey, Bobby Haig, and John Iredale. Chuck Taylor and Brian Mason are omitted.

In Durham on December 29 Paul Smith, Iain Robertson, Grant Slater and Alastair Reid will replace Heavey, Haig, Nigel Rhodes and Peter Smith.

TEAMS: At Nottingham: M McKay, M Hanson; C Kelland, S Cooper, P Hand, P Heavey, P Lee; B Haig, N Rhodes, T Hand, S Nell, A Johnson, Stephen Johnson, J Lawless, I Cooper, G Stefan, K McNaught, J Crapper, J Iredale, Peter Smith.
At Durham: F Killen, S O'Connor; C Kelland, P Hand, P Lee, S Cooper, Paul Smith; T Hand, S Nell, A Johnson, Stephen Johnson, J Lawless, I Cooper, G Stefan, K McNaught, J Crapper, J Iredale, I Robertson, G Slater, A Reid.

● The British Ice Hockey Association said yesterday that, contrary to a previous decision, there will be end-of-season play-offs for promotion to the premier division.

SPORTS POLITICS

Dispute looms on inner city funding

By John Goodbody

A dispute broke out yesterday between the Government and its quango, the Sports Council, over the future funding of sport in the inner cities.

The controversy overshadowed the publication of the review, chaired by Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, entitled *Sport and Active Recreation in the Inner Cities*, whose main finding is that many facilities are already available but under-utilized.

At present, the council, which is funded almost entirely by taxpayers' money, gives about £5 million of its £44 million grant specifically towards inner city provision.

However, John Birch, the council's director of regional services, said that for these proposals to be carried out, he estimated the council would have to double this financial allocation.

He pointed out that the budget for Action Sport, which deals directly with support for deprived areas, had already had its budget cut by 20 per cent this year due to the demands of other areas of the council's work.

Moynihan said that he would welcome the council considering the implications of the report and discussing them with the Government, but he dismissed the figure of an extra £5 million as "one man's knee-jerk response, which is totally unsubstantiated. The Sports Council has formally neither costed nor considered the report at all," he said.

He added that the Government would look at the funding implications, but stressed that the proposals centred on areas in which the council was already involved. "It is a matter of targeting time and effort in sharper focus," he said.

In a prepared statement, Peter Yarrauton, chairman of the council, said: "We wholeheartedly support the proposals in the report and will continue to direct our attention to deprived communities. We can, however, only work within the resources available to us.

"It is a little disappointing that there is no indication from the Minister of additional money to enable the council to take fresh initiatives. The extent to which we can adapt existing programmes is limited."

Among the recommendations which could demand further finance from the council are: the establishment or improvement of an effective advisory service to local groups about how best to contact and approach private companies for support, and also the possibility of the council assisting more local authorities to provide computer-based information for access by the public in sports information centres."

BADMINTON

Hall the likeliest to fall

Two of the most interesting rivalries in the game since World War II are scheduled to have televised climaxes on Tuesday in the English national championships, sponsored by Oracle UK, which start at Crawley today (Richard Eaton writes).

Darren Hall, the European champion and title holder, may face Steve Baddeley, the Commonwealth champion and top seed, in the men's final, andFiona Smith, the women's title holder, is likely to meet Helen Troke, the other Commonwealth champion.

Given that such matches would make an excellent promotion, there is little guarantee of their taking place.

Hall, despite his high-speed brilliance, looks the most at risk. He has yet to find his best form. Troke, despite her good international record, has been vulnerable in the nationals in the last two years.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP: Quarter-final group, second series: Men: Pezenas Lech Poznan 73, Maccabi Tel Aviv 68. Barcelona: Barcelona 90, Aris Salonika 56. Milan: Philips Milan 73, Jugoplastika Split 84. Limoges: Limoges 112, Den Helder 80. Prague: Women: Semi-final group, second series: Vysoka Skoly Prague (Cz) 69, CSKA Moscow (USSR) 89. Marandes: Asteroc Mirande (Fr) 67, Trogylos Priolo (It) 84.
CAMLESKING LEAGUE: Sunderland 124, Derby 100.
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION: Indiana Pacers 102, New Jersey Nets 78; Washington Bullets 105, Charlotte Hornets 101; Chicago Bulls 134, Orlando Magic 113; San Antonio Spurs 104, Houston Rockets 100.

BOWLS

COUNTY MATCHES: Northants 131, Bedfordshire 124.

HOCKEY

BUTTERMEN INDOOR LEAGUE: Crystal Palace: Teddington 9, Hounslow 7; East Grinstead 7, Khalsa 6; St Albans 3, Old Loughtonians 9.

CRICKET

DHAKA: Under-19 Asia Cup: Final: India 224-7 (49 overs), Sri Lanka 146 all out (39.5 overs). India won by 78 runs. Third place play-off: Malaysia 73 all out (23.4 overs), Pakistan 75 for one (9.5 overs). Pakistan won by 9 wkts.
SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Perth: Western Australia 283-0 (Marsh 170 n.o., Valetta 98 n.o.) v South Australia. Albury: New South Wales 225-6 v Victoria.

GOLF

QUEENSLAND: Brisbane Open: Second round leaders (Aus unless stated): 134: B Ogle, 68, 66. 137: K Dukes, 68, 69; J Clifford, 68, 69. 138: S Bennett (GB), 69, 69. 140: G Holman, 72, 68; W Grady, 70, 70; M Harwood, 71, 69. Others: 147: C Moody (GB), 76, 71. 148: S Jackson (GB), 73, 75; J Morse (US) 75, 73; M Wilkerson (US), 76, 72.

TEN-PIN BOWLING

DUBLIN: World Cup: Men: Semi-final qualifiers: 1, P Napolaccorno (Phil), 3,674; 2, B Bauholer, (WG), 3,708; 3, G Verbruggen (Bel), 3,752; 4, D Mastal (US), 3,650; 5, K Andersson (Swe), 3,598; 6, G Monsuri (Cesar), 3,560; 7, M Khalifa, (UAE), 3,561; 8, M Takahasa (Japan), 3,548.

IN BRIEF

Stewart's RAC post

The three-times world motor racing champion, Jackie Stewart, has become a steward of the Royal Automobile Club.

Since retiring from the Grand Prix circuit in 1973, Stewart has been an active campaigner for improvements in racing and general motoring safety.

Incentive for home players

Home players will have an added incentive in the English open table tennis championships at Manchester next month. The sponsors, Leeds Building Society, are offering two £1,000 prizes to the English players who give "the best performances" in the men's and women's events.

Games call-up

Helen Mansfield, the swimmer from Clwyd, has won a late call-up to Wales's Commonwealth Games squad. Mansfield has been added to the party following the withdrawal of the boxer, Russell Ivins, and Dave Arnold, a rifleman.

Change of trainer

Helsinki (Reuter) – Matt Nykanen, the Finnish triple Olympic ski jump champion who has performed modestly in World Cup events so far this season, said yesterday that he was dropping his long-time trainer, Matti Pulli.

McLeod's target

Mike McLeod, the former Olympic 10,000 metres silver medal winner, goes for his sixteenth consecutive victory in the Saltwell 10 kilometre road race at Gateshead tomorrow. He will be challenged by last year's runner-up, the English steeplechase champion, Colin Walker.

Staying on

The former world finalists, Eric Boooock and Colin Pratt, are to stay on as England's speedway team managers.

Maxwell is snared

Oldham have beaten Widnes and St Helens to sign John Maxwell, the Great Britain under-19 forward, on a four-year contract from Leigh Miners, the amateur club.

VERY SEASONALLY OPPORTUNE PRESENT

REMY MARTIN V.S.O.P.
FINE CHAMPAGNE COGNAC

Remy Martin V.S.O.P. is matured considerably longer than ordinary Cognac. It is also a Fine Champagne Cognac and this designation is permitted only for Cognacs from the two finest areas of the Cognac region.
All of which makes Remy Martin V.S.O.P. particularly welcome when the festive season calls for a neighbourly gesture.

FOOTBALL: WITH SOME OF THEIR MOST TESTING AWAY GAMES ALREADY PLAYED ARSENAL ARE WELL PLACED TO RETAIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

O'Leary fears only Liverpool

By Clive White

If Santa Claus only handed out presents to the needy, he would be giving the Highbury chimney a miss this year. With the League championship trophy under lock and key and the League leadership nicely in hand, it hard to believe that there is still something that Arsenal would like for Christmas.

Yet for all their success this season, Arsenal are dissatisfied. The team have still to attain the level of performance reached last season and it is only proper that the personal pride of George Graham and his players should demand something better.

Scepticism voiced at the start of the season that Arsenal, having scaled their mountain, might lack the ambition to make the climb all over again, now seems ill-founded given Arsenal's strong foothold as they approach the half-way stage. But few can deny that their efforts so far are more a testimony to their organization than their flair.

David O'Leary, better acquainted than anyone with the inner-workings of Arsenal after 16 years at the club, recognizes that it is an individual failure rather than a collective one.

"The team spirit is still tremendous. It's that collectiveness and our system of play which is keeping us up there. We've got a system that will get us results, even if we have to grind them out rather than let them flow. But that's the sign of a good team as well, when you can dig them out when you're not playing quite as well," he said.

"The standard we set ourselves last season is a lot to live up to. The way we're playing now is how we performed last season after Christmas. Hopefully, it will turn out to be the opposite way around this season and we will play better in the latter half."

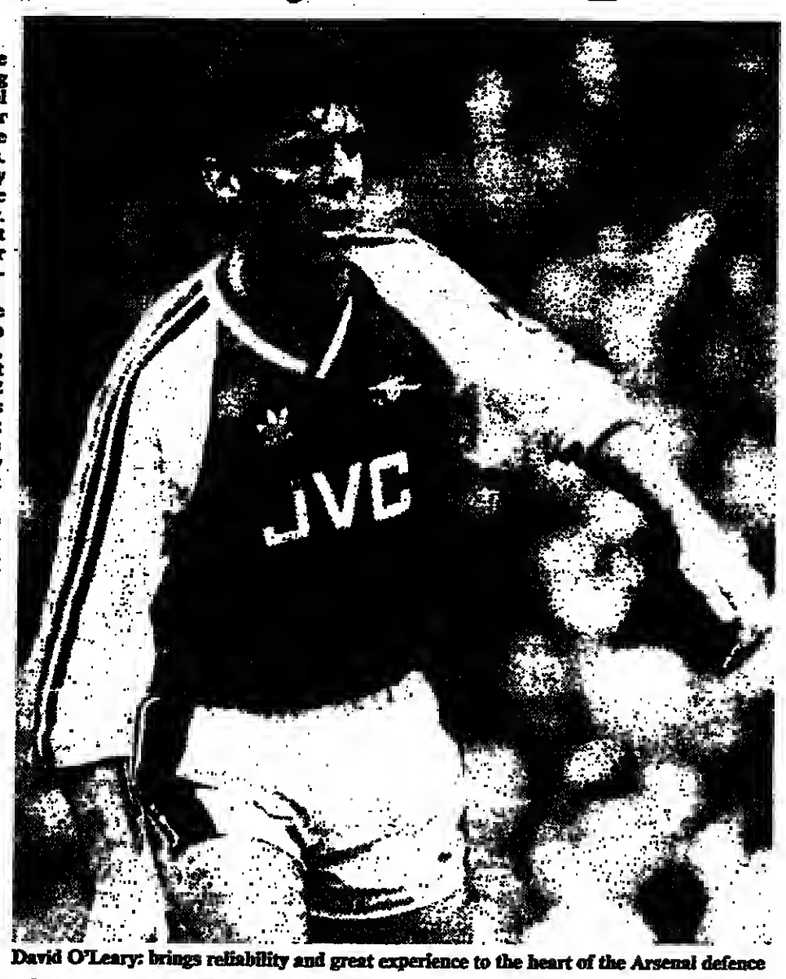
O'Leary refutes suggestions that youngsters like Rocastle and Thomas were showing signs of failing Arsenal through lack of stamina or whatever, as they did in the 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons. Certainly last season they could hardly have lasted the course more triumphantly. "The youngsters haven't stopped doing it. Every year they've been better and stronger," he said.

Nevertheless several of the Arsenal side have some way to go before they reach maturity, if O'Leary's assessment that the years from 28 to 32 normally see a player at his best. O'Leary, who is 31, said: "I didn't believe it when Johnny Giles said that they were a player's peak years but it's true."

The hardy annual of the Arsenal and Republic of Ireland teams is aware that Arsenal played some of their best football last season when the manager introduced a five-man defensive system for the final eight games. He is hopeful that the return to fitness of Steve Bould (he recommenced training this week) will coincide with a return to the system. He feels that it might just give Arsenal the impetus they will need to resist the challenge of a more healthy Liverpool.

"It was a great thing for the team. Tony Adams and Steve Bould love it. They like to go in and mark people and don't have to worry about their backs because they have me behind them. Lee Dixon and Nigel Winterburn like it because it enables them to push on and it suits their flair for attack.

"It also pushes David Rocastle more into the final third of the field. It's hardly negative, even if it does make us more difficult to break down at the back. From a personal point of view I don't mind whether we play it or not. If you've played all the football I have you don't mind an ordinary four-man defence."



David O'Leary: brings reliability and great experience to the heart of the Arsenal defence

O'Leary was at a loss to explain why this season's away form — four defeats in eight games — has been comparatively poor. Last season Arsenal won more games away from home than they did at Highbury and suffered only three away defeats all season.

Their style leads itself to counter-attack, as O'Leary freely admitted. "We're not a team who like to sponge it but we're very dangerous under pressure. We can break well. We have players capable of getting from one end of the pitch to the other in an effective manner."

Arsenal's strike rate, though, remains disappointing — they have scored eight goals fewer than at the same stage last season, while conceding three goals fewer. The front pair are more variable than they were last season and for today's game at home to Luton Town, Graham has omitted Quinn.

However, for all the problems of Arsenal and Liverpool with consistency, O'Leary regarded it as a pointless exercise to look anywhere else for the winners of this season's championship. One thing seems sure. Arsenal, who have concluded their away fixtures against most of the teams with any championship credentials can only get better.

Gough tackles the arctic cold with his sunny side up

By Roddy Forsyth

Yesterday's snow which, to echo James Joyce, was general all over Scotland, managed to account for most of this afternoon's scheduled premier division fixtures. Freezing conditions throughout the central belt put paid to the important event at Tynecastle, where Heart of Midlothian were to have met Aberdeen; at Fir Park, where Motherwell and Hibernian were due to play; and at Love Street, which was deemed unplayable for St Mirren and Dunfermline.

The matches in Edinburgh and Paisley will be played, weather permitting, on Wednesday; Motherwell and Hibernian are rescheduled for Tuesday evening. Despite warnings of likely overnight blizzards, the remaining two matches, involving Dundee United and Rangers at Tannadice and Celtic and Dundee at Parkhead, seemed likely to survive the ravages of the weather.

Mindful of the possibilities of hazardous road conditions, Rangers set off towards Tayside yesterday afternoon, aware that if their fixture is completed it offers them the opportunity to ve two points clear of rdeen, the premier division leaders, by virtue of a slender goal-difference advantage.

Rangers will probably field the team which beat Motherwell last Saturday, when Gough displayed no reaction to the cheekbone injury which kept him out of action for several matches. The Scotland defender took advantage of his enforced absence from football to visit his home in South Africa, a sojourn which appears to have left him unusually eager to return to work in sub-arctic conditions.

"Because it was an unexpected chance to enjoy some sunshine, I feel very fresh for this stage of the season and my appetite for the game is as sharp as ever," he said. "I think, too, that when you get a bad injury you worry that there are no guarantess you will be able to play again without trouble, so having had a game behind me is obviously a big boost to my confidence."

Dundee United are aware that their title chances have receded vastly in the past week, on account of defeats by Aberdeen and St Mirren. Jim McLean, their manager, says that the fault lies io their failing to take such chances.

Showdown for the European giants

Zurich (Reuter) — Bayern Munich and PSV Eindhoven, two of the giants of European club football, will meet in the quarter-finals of this season's European Cup after being paired together in the draw yesterday.

Bayern, three times winners of the competition, and the Dutch champions, who beat Benfica, of Portugal, on penalties in the 1988 final, have formidable domestic records in recent years but both must be relieved to have avoided holders AC Milan, who drew Mechelen of Belgium, the 1988 Cup Winners Cup champions.

In the Cup Winners Cup, Sampdoria, who lost to Barcelona in last year's final, have a straightforward-looking tie against Grasshoppers of Switzerland while Anderlecht and Monaco will also fancy their chances against Admira Wacker of Austria and Real Valladolid.

West Germany could conceivably claim three of the four semi-final spots in the UEFA Cup after the draw kept Cologne, Werder Bremen and Hamburg apart. All three face tough ties, however, against Antwerp, Liege and Juventus.

The first legs will be played on March 7 with the return on March 21.

EUROPEAN CUP: quarter-finals: CFKA Sofia v Marseille; Mechelen v AC Milan; Bayern Munich v PSV Eindhoven; Benfica v Dnepropetrovsk (Soviet Union).
CUP WINNERS CUP: quarter-finals: Sampdoria v Grasshoppers; Real Valladolid v Monaco; Dinamo Bucharest v Partizan Belgrade; Anderlecht v Admira Wacker (Austria).
UEFA CUP: quarter-finals: Fiorentina v Austerr; Cologne v Antwerp; Liege v Werder Bremen; Hamburg v Juventus.

SNOOKER

Wounded pride is spur for finalists

By Steve Acteson

For all his carefully contrived air of south Londoo insouciance, Jimmy White would give a lot to win the last tournament of the 1980s, the Everest World Matchplay which ends in Brentwood today.

Much as White and John Parrott, who led 4-3 after the first session of the best-of-35-frames final yesterday, would welcome the £100,000 prize, pride is their sharpest spur.

White's pride has been pricked by the fact that he last won an important title 14 mooths ago (the Canadian Masters) and has slipped from second to fourth in the rankings. While still considered an entertainer, he has become disregarded as a main contender.

"This is the end of the decade and I want to go out playing well," be said after defeating Dean Reynolds, the No. 15 ranked player, 9-8, in the second semi-final. White had led 4-0 and 8-3. "A long hard match like that couldn't do me any harm because it helps build your stamina. But if I had lost it from so far ahead — I don't know, it could have destroyed me," he said darkly.

Parrott, the world No. 2, from Liverpool, is self-admittedly a slow starter every season, but until the Everest he had hardly broken inm a crawl. However, having recovered from 5-0 behind to beat Stephen Hendry io the first semi-final, Parrott also had a jaunty air of self-belief. His opening break of 86 yesterday reioforced the point.

In frame three White missed o straightforward red when leading 48-0, and then a free-ball black after Parrott had snookered himself oo the yellow, to allow Parrott to lead 2-1. White woo two of the next four frames — with a respotted black in the fifth and with breaks of 38 and 63 in the seventh.

RESULTS (England unless stated): Final: J Parrott led J White 4-3. Semi-finals: White bt O Reynolds, 9-8; Parrott bt S Hendry (Sco), 9-8.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Two more suspended at Widnes

By Keith Macklin

The campaign against head-high tackling produced two more suspensions at yesterday's disciplinary committee meeting, and both punishments affected Widnes, who are already suffering from injuries and the eight-match ban imposed on Paul Moriarty.

Further eight-match suspensions were imposed on their froot row forwards, Joe Grima and Michael O'Neill. Grima was seen to inflict a high tackle on Shaun Edwards, of Wigan, during Regal Trophy tie last Saturday, but O'Neill's offence, against Joe Lydoo in the same match, was picked up on video tape.

Widnes may feel relieved that their championship game tomorrow is at Barrow, where the home side are having an awful season. Barrow, for their part, will feel that the suspensions give them the opportunity to at least put up a show.

The outstanding game in the Regal Trophy quarter-finals takes place this afternoon at Headingley, with Leeds at home to the favourites and holders, Wigan. Leeds, who are hungry for success after several seasons in the wilderness, have become a renewed force under the coaching of David Ward, and there can be oo stronger test of their new-found confidence than o match against Wigan, who are beginning to look as solid and effective as ever under their new Australian coach, Joho Monie.

Tomorrow, St Helens, having survived a fright against Dewsbury, have a home tie against Oldham. They have several players injured and are once again without Jonathan Griffiths, and Shane Cooper, who is suspended. Oldham, who beat St Helens in the Lancashire Cup, at Knowsley Road, are quite capable of repeating that success.

Sheffield Eagles return to the Saltergate football ground, at Chesterfield, for their 'home' tie against Castleford, and have the ability to progress into the semi-finals against a team showing inconsistent form.

The Sheffield team manager and coach, Gary Hetherington, is among those players who have been banned for eight matches for a foul tackle, in Hetherington's case while he was helping out in the reserves.

In the fourth game, Halifax, of the second division, should make home advantage count, although Featherstone Rovers have already won away from home at Trafford Borough and Hunslet.

SKIING

Figini is set to challenge Gerg's lead

Panorama, British Columbia (Reuter) — Michela Figini, of Switzerland, looks set to challenge Michaela Gerg, of West Germany, for supremacy io the World Cup women's downhill in two races this weekend in the Canadian Rockies.

Figini turned to a pair of solid training runs as she tuned up for an attempt to add to her 16 World Cup downhill victories io the races on today and tomorrow.

Presently third in the downhill standings with 32 points, eight behind the pacesetting Gerg, Figini has history on her side. The Swiss, aged 23, has won the last four World Cup downhills held in Canada, including two last February.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League
First division
Arsenal v Luton
Charlton v C Palace
Chelsea v Liverpool
Coventry v Wimbledon
Manchester U v Tottenham
Millwall v Aston Villa
Norwich v Derby County
Sheffield Wed v QPR

Third division
Birmingham v Preston
Blackpool v Fulham
Bristol City v Leyton O
Bury v Walsall
Cardiff v Notts C
Rotherham v Huddersfield
Shrewsbury v Bolton
Wigan v Swansea

GM Vauxhall Conference
Altrincham v Stafford
Cheltenham v Darlington
Enfield v Sutton Utd
Farnborough v Chorley
Fisher v Barrow
Kidderminster v Kettering
Macclesfield v Merthyr Tyd
Runcorn v Northwich
Telford v Boston
Welling v Yeovil
Wycombe v Barnet

Vauxhall League
Premier division
Aylesbury v St Albans
Barking v Bromley
Basingstoke v Hendon
B Stortford v Hayes
Dulwich v Bognor
Grays v Leyton Wingate
Harrow v Dagenham
Kingstonian v Windsor & E
Redbridge F v Marlow
Slough v Carshalton
Wokingham v Staines

Beazer Homes League
Premier division
Alvechurch v Weymouth
Ashford v Atherstone
Bath v Dover
Burton v Cambridge C
Chelmsford v Gosport
Corby v Bromsgrove
Crawley v Worcester
Dorchester v VS Rugby
Gravesend v Wealdstone
Moor Green v Gloucester
Waterlooville v Dartford

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: First division: Boreham Wood v Metropolitan Police; Chesham v Worthing; Croydon v Tooting and Mitcham; Dorking v Hitchin; Hampton v Lewes; Kingsbury v Harlow; Purfleet v Leatherhead; Southwick v Chelford St Peter; Walton and Hersham v Wembley; Wivenhoe v Uxbridge; Woking v Whyteleafe. Second division north: Basildon v Hertford; Finchley v Barton; Heybridge v Tring; Hornchurch v Clapton; Letchworth GC v Berkhamsted; Saffron Walden v Tilbury; Vauxhall Motors v Rainham; Ware v Royston; Witham v Hemel Hempstead. Second division south: Horsham v Camberley; Hungerford v Petersfield; Southall v Epsom and Ewell.
ABACUS LEAGUE: National division: Abergavenny v Briton Ferry; Aberystwyth v Pembroke; Llanelli v Bridgend; Maesteg Park v Ammanford; Port Talbot v Brecon; Ton Pentre v AFC Cardiff.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Liskeard v Clevedon; Plymouth Argyle v Radstock; Swanage and Herston v Frome; Tiverton v Bideford; Torrington v Chippenham; Welton v Saltash; Weston-super-Mare v Bristol Manor Farm.
SKOL NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia v Brandon; Blyth Spartans v Ferryhill (3.15); Guisborough v Durham; Newcastle Blue Star v Greenf; Shildon v Consett; South Bank v Alnwick; Spennymoor v Whickham; Stockton v Billingham Town; Tow Law v Easington (2.0); Whitby v Seaham Red Star.

Second division
Blackburn v Stoke
Bournemouth v Barnsley
Hull v Ipswich
Leeds v Brighton
Middlesbrough v Leicester
Newcastle v Plymouth
Oxford v Wolves
Portsmouth v Sunderland
Port Vale v Sheffield Utd
Watford v Bradford C
West Ham v Oldham

Fourth division
Chesterfield v York
Colchester v Torquay
Exeter v Gillingham
Grimsby v Southend
Hereford v Scunthorpe
Maidstone v Hartlepool
Rochdale v Lincoln
Scarborough v Aldershot
Wrexham v Burnley

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Bilston v Grantham; Hednesford v Banbury; Leicester v Barry; Nuneaton v Racing Club Warwick; Redditch v King's Lynn; Sandwell v Sutton Coldfield; Stourbridge v Bedworth; Stroud v Dudley; Willenhall v Bridgnorth. Southern division: Burnham v Baldock; Bury Town v Fareham; Canterbury v Poole; Corinthian v Sheppey; Dunstable v Trowbridge; Folkestone v Buckingham; Hounslow v Witney; Margate v Erith and Belvedere; Salisbury v Andover.
BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Vauxhall GM (2.0); Chadderton v Clitheroe (2.0); Colwyn Bay v Atherton LR (2.0); Leyland Motors v Skelmersdale (3.0); Nantwich v Flixton (2.0); Prescot Cables v Ashton (2.0); Salford v Knowsley (2.0).
SHERNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Bangor v Newry; Coleraine v Cliftonville; Crusaders v Glentoran; Distillery v Carrick; Larne v Ballymena; Linfield v Ards.
FA VASE: Third round: Droylsden v Ribesendale; Harrogate v Chester Le Street; Warrington v Netherfield (1.30); Guiseley v Northallerton; Emley v Denaby; Curzon Ashton v Bridlington Town; Darwen v St Helens; Peterlee Newtown v Parsley; Spalding v Lye; Heanor v Paget Rangers; Hucknall v Boldmere St Michaels (1.30); Bourne v Eastwood Hanley (1.30); Rainds v Hinckley; Rushden v Wisbech; Yeading v East Thurrock; Billericay v Aveley; Sudbold v Gt Yarmouth; Walthamstow Pennant v Collier Row; Potton v Sawbridge; Sudbury v Haverhill; Whitstable v Greenwich (1.30); Bracknell v Harefield; Eastleigh v Thatcham; Deal v Hythe (1.30); Hailsham v Hastings (1.30); Vale Recreation v Merstham; Chertsey v Molesey; Chard v Dewlish (1.30); Exmouth v Bashley; Abingdon v Bridlington; Paulton v Yate; Falmouth v Newbury (1.30).
OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Luton v Norwich; Reading v Millwall; Southampton v Ipswich; Tottenham v Watford; Postponed: Wimbledon v West Ham.
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Carthusians v Old Foresters. First division: Old Harrovians v Old Ardinians; Old Wellingburians v Lancing Old Boys; Old Westminsters v Old Alderhambians. Arthur Dunn Cup: First round: Old Bradfieldians v Old Wykehamists; Old Brentwoods v Old Haileyburians; Old Chigwellians v Old Cholmeleians; Old Malvernians v Old Etonians.
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: League Cup: Third round: Charlton Ath v QPR. First division: Arsenal v Tottenham; Cambridge v West Ham; Fulham v Gillingham; Leyton Orient v Portsmouth; Millwall v Ipswich; Queen's Park Rangers v Norwich; Southend v Charlton. Second division: Aldershot v Crystal Palace; Bristol City v Reading; Bristol Rovers v Northampton; Luton v Brentford; Oxford v Bournemouth; Tottenham v Swindon; Wimbledon v Brighton and Hove.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: First division: Winsford v Alfreton.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Bangor City v Horwich; Frickley v Stalybridge; Gainsborough v Caernarfon; Lancaster v Witton; Leek v Hyde; Marine v Southport; Matlock v Fleetwood; Morecambe v Goole; Rhyl v Mossley.

B and Q Scottish League
Premier division
Celtic v Dundee
Dundee Utd v Rangers
Hearts v Aberdeen P
Motherwell v Hibernian P
St Mirren v Dunfermline P

First division
Albion v Hamilton P
Alloa v Forfar
Ayr Utd v Raith
Clydebank v Falkirk
Meadowbank v Airdrie P
Partick v Morton P
St Johnstone v Clyde

Second division
Arbroath v Stranraer P
Cowdenbeath v Cn of the South P
East Fife v Kilmarnock
East Stirling v Brechin P
Montrose v Stirling
Queens Park v Dumbarton
Stenhousemuir v Berwick P

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: League Cup, second round: Yorkshire Amateur v Riverton Park; Frecheville v Pickering; Grimethorpe v Garforth; Hatfield v Stocksbridge; North Ferriby v Sutton; Woolley v Harrogate RW; Glasshoughton v Armthorpe; Sheffield v Brillington Trinity; Ossett v Winterton Rangers; Worsbrough v Pontefract; North Shields v Belper; Hallam v Thackley; Tadcaster v Ossett Albion.

BASKETBALL
(8.0 unless stated)
CARLSBERG PREMIER LEAGUE: Bracknell v Kingston; Manchester v Derby.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division men: Birmingham v Oldham; Cheshire v Corby (7.30); Crystal Palace v Bury; Hemel Hempstead v Gateshead; Plymouth v Stevenage (7.30). Second division men: Birmingham v Doncaster (5.30); Greenwich v Watford (7.30); Kirklees v Stockport; Manchester v Calderdale (5.45); North London v Cardiff. First division women: Crystal Palace v Ipswich (4.00); Kingston v Gateshead (6.00); Stockport v Leicester.

HOCKEY
PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Blackheath v Beckenham; Dulwich v Purley; Hawks v Old Kingstons; Maidenhead v Cheam; Oxford Univ v Wimbledon; Spencer v Surbiton; Tulse Hill v Mid-Surrey.
PERONI SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Camberley v Anchorians; Chichester v Gravesend; Eastcote v Old Midwhitgiftians; High Wycombe v Winchester; Marden Russets v Bognor; Oxford Hawks v Fareham; Sevenoaks v Old Tauntonians; Trojans v Tunbridge Wells. Regionals: Hampshire-Surrey: Epsom v Weybourne; Goan v Old Walcoonians; Hamble Old Boys v Southampton Univ; Merton v Bournemouth and WH; Metropolitan Police v Basingstoke; Nat West Bank v Fleet; Old Edwardians v Walton; Woking v Barnes. Kent-Sussex: Burgh Ash v Old Bordenians; Folkestone Opt v Lloyds Bank; Horsham v Herne Bay; Old Beccehamians v Brighton and Hove; Old Williamsonians v Mid Sussex; Thames Poly v Rochester and Gillingham; Tonbridge v Old Holcombeians; Worthing v Lewes. Middlesex-Berkshire-Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire: Amersham v British Airways; Bracknell v Aylesbury; City of Oxford v Windsor; Hayes v Staines; Marlow v DMT; NPL v Witney; Southgate Adel v Hendon; Sunbury v Berrards Cross.
MIDLANDS LEAGUE (men): Club matches: Aldridge [U22] v Sutton Coldfield; Bridgnorth v Bloxwich; Bromsgrove v Old Wulfrunians; GEC Coventry v Warwick; Harborne [OSS] v Sutton Coldfield; Leek v Stone; Olton v Old Silhillians; Wolverhampton v Telford.

ICE HOCKEY
HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Murrayfield v Cardiff (8.30); Peterborough v Durham (6.30); Whitley v Solihull (6.30). First division: Deeside v Cleveland (5.30); Lee Valley v Slough (5.30); Medway v Swindon (5.15); Streatham v Trafford (6.15); Telford v Humberside (7.0).
ENGLISH LEAGUE: First division: Romford v Bracknell (5.15).

RUGBY UNION
TOSHIBA DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
North v London (at Otley, 2.15)
South West v Midlands (at Bath, 3.0)

TOSHIBA COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Sussex v Hampshire (at Bognor, 2.15)

TOUR MATCH
English Students v Soviet Union (at Stourbridge, 2.30)

McEWAN'S INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP
Anglo Scots v Edinburgh (at Cambridge, 1.0)
North and Midlands v Glasgow (at Inverness, 2.0)

SCHWEPPES WELSH CUP
Fourth round
(2.30 unless stated)
Aberavon v Laugharne
Abertillery v Maesteg Celtic
Bonymaen v Tumble
Bridgend v Dunvant
Cardiff v Bridgend Athletic (3.0)
Ebbw Vale v Porthcawl
Llandeilo v Pontypridd
Llanharan v Blaina
Newbridge v Llantrisant
Pontyberen v Dovery
Pontypool v Abercynon
St Peters v Swansea
Senghenydd v Llanelli
Taffs Well v Glamorgan
Trehefbert v Newport
Ystrad Rhondda v Neath

Club matches
(2.30 unless stated)
Bedford v Rosslyn Pk (3.0)
Cambme v Cambridge Univ (2.45)
Durham v Gateshead Fell (3.0)
Exeter v Plymouth
Fylde v Northern (2.15)
Gala v Gosforth (2.0)
Gloucester v Coventry (3.0)
Hawick v Melrose (2.0)
Jed-Forest v Kelso (2.0)
Kendal v Middlesbrough (2.15)
Leicester v Richmond (3.0)
Litchfield v Roundhay
Liverpool St H v Preston G
L Scottish v Birkenhead Park
L Welsh v Bath (2.15)
Maidstone v Sutton and Epsom
Met Police v Blackheath (3.0)
Morley v Wharfedale
Nottingham v Bristol (3.0)
Nuneaton v New Brighton
Orrel v Otley
Redruth v Penryn (3.0)
Rugby v Harlequins (3.0)
Sale v Headingley (2.45)
Sheffield v Hartlepool R
Southend v Hertford (3.0)
Sudbury v High Wycombe
Vale of Lune v L Irish (2.15)
Wakefield v Saracens
Wasps v Northampton (3.0)
Waterloo v Moseley (2.15)
Western v Cross Keys (3.0)
Winnington Pk v Aspatria

UNDER-21 DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Anglo Scots v Edinburgh (at Grange Road, Cambridge)

UNDER-18 DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: North and Midlands v South; Edinburgh v Glasgow.

NAT WEST COLTS COUNTY FINAL: Yorkshire v Lancashire (Twickenham, 2.0)

BORDER LEAGUE: Melrose v Hawick; Jed-Forest v Kelso; Langholm v Selkirk.

AYRSHIRE LEAGUE: Marr v Ardrossan Academical.

SCOTLAND: Club matches: Allan Glen's v Gumnock; Biggar v Kirkcaldy; Boroughmuir v Cockburnspe; Broughton FP v Heddington; Cambuslang v Dalziel HSFP; Clarkston v Madras College FP; Clydebank v Whitecraig; Dumfries v Hawick YM; Dunfermline v Aberdeen GSFP; Duns v Gala Forest; East Kilbride v Greenock Wanderers; Edinburgh Wanderers v Glasgow High-Kelvinside; Gala v Gosforth; Garioch v Montrose; Glenrothes v Hawick YM; Gordonians v Howe of Fife; Grangemouth v Hawick Linden; Heriots FP v Glasgow Academicals; Highland v Aberdeenshire; Hillhead v Waysiders; Hillhead-Jordanhill v Ayr; Kilmarnock v Royal High; Leith Academicals v Musselburgh; Lismore v Lenzie; Morgan Academy FP v Currie; Old Aloysians v Garnock; Paisley v Caritas Queen Park; Peebles v Annan; Perthshire v Alloa; Portobello FP v Stirling County; Preston Lodge FP v Stewart-Melville FP; Ross High v Dalkeith; Watsonians v Edinburgh Academicals; Wigtownshire v Stewartry.

IRELAND: Senior clubs: Ards v Ballynahinch; Collegians v Old Belvedere; Malone v Monkstown; Queen's University v Lansdowne; Ballymena v St Mary's College; NIFC v Lansdowne; Dublin University v Instonians; Blackrock College v CIYMS; Dungannon v Terenure College; Portadown v Sunday's Well; Clontarf v Bohemians; Greystones v Shannon; Highfield v Skerries; Old Wesley v Dolphin; Wanderers v Young Munster (at Merrion Road).

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Bisley Office Equipment Southern Merit Table: Abbey v Havant; Guildford v Reading; Marlow v Maidenhead. Tandem Seven Counties Merit Table: Maidstone v Sutton and Epsom; US Portsmouth v Sidcup; Woodford v St Mary's Hospital. ADT CLOB Merit Table: Haberdashers v Whitgiftian; KCS v Paulines; Old Freemans v Old Bevonians; Old Reigatian v Old Tiffinian; Old Wimbledonians v Old Walcountians.

Fullers Brewery Middlesex Merit Table: Hendon v Civil Service. Club matches: Ashford v Old Gravesendians; Aylesbury v Harrow; Bancroft v Old Westcliffians; Barclays Bank v Sudbury Court; Barnet v Mill Hill; Bec Old Boys v Belmont Ironsides; Billericay v Old Brentwoods; Bracknell v Devizes; Buckingham v Northampton Trinity; Cantabrigian v Bishop's Stortford; Canvey Island v Harlow; Chesham v Leighton Buzzard; Colchester v Bury St Edmunds; Cranleigh v Hove; Crowborough v Tonbridge Wells; Crusaders v West Norfolk; Deal Wanderers v Canterbury; Dorking v Tonbridge; Eastleigh v Camberley; Farnham v Effingham; Feltham v Centaurs; Folkestone v Brigands; Fullerians v Redingensians; Gravesend v Medway; Harwell v Oxford Marathon; Haywards Heath v Mitcham; Hemel Hempstead v Old Albanians; Henley v Chinnor; Hong Kong Bank v HAC; Ilford Wanderers v East London; Lewes v Eastbourne; Linden v Bentleshangar; London Cornish v Harrodian; London Oratory v Old Emanuel; Midland Bank v Park House; Norwich v Ipswich; Old Ashmoleans v Old Tottonians; Old Beccehamians v NatWest Bank; Old Blues v Horsham; Old Brocklehurstians v Beckenham; Old Caterhamians v Citizens; Old Colfeians v Old Dunstonians; Old Cranleighans v Old Hamptonians; Old Elizabethans v Kingsburians; Old Ethelnians v Gillingham Anchorians; Old Gaytonians v Newbury; Old Grammarians v Upminster; Old Haileyburians v UCS Old Boys; Old Millhillians v Haringey; Old Pelhamians v Raynes Park; Old Pennanians v REME Aborfield; Old Residonians v Bank of England; Old Thomasians v Univ Vandals; Old Wimbledonians v Old Walcountians; Oxteley v Finchley; Phoenix v Old Abbotsonians; Portsmouth v Salisbury; Purley v London Hospital; Roseth Manor v Datchworth; Sevenoaks v Old Judden; Shirley Wanderers v Erith; Southend v Hertford; Streatham and Croydon v Esher; Sudbury v High Wycombe; Tabard v Old Verulamian; Thurrock v Brentwood; Twickenham v London New Zealand; Vauxhall v St Albans; Welwyn v Harpenden; Westcombe Park v Eton Manor; Worthing v Brighton.

MIDLANDS: Club matches: Alcester v Cheltenham U21; Anstey v Nuneaton Ed 1; Ashfield Swans v Uttoxeter; Aston OE v Old Centrals; Aylestoneians v Old Ashbeians; Avon and Somerset Police v Walsall; Banbury v Broad Street; Barkers Butts v Stafford; Braunstone v Aylestone Athletic; Barnsley v Matlock; Bedford Swifts v Bedford Rams; Belgrave v Amber Valley; Bicester v Towcestrians; Birmingham and Solihull v Oxford; Birmingham Civil Service v Dunlop; Buckingham v Northampton Trinity; Burbage v Coventry Post Office; Burntwood v Atherstone; Cheltenham Civil Service v Upton on Severn; Cheshunt v Leighton Buzzard; Clanfield v Hereford; Clevedon v Witton; Coalville v Old Ashbeians; Coventry Saracens v Rugby Welsh; Daventry v Northampton Casuals; Derby v Worcester; Dhonians v Kidderminster; Droitwich v Oswestry; Dudley Kingswinford v Westleigh; Earlsdon v Kibworth; East Retford v Notts Casuals; Edwardians v Camp Hill; Erdington v Kings Norton; Evesham v Loughborough; Five Ways O E Y Yardley & District; GEC Coventry v Birmingham Welsh; GEC-AEI Rugby v Berkswell and Balsall; Grimsby v North Kesteven; Handsworth v Old Silhillians; Harbury v Birstall; Hinckley v Stewarts and Lloyds; Huddersfield v Pavlors; Ilkeston v Belper; Kenilworth v Newbold; Kesteven v Melton Mowbray; Keyworth v Boots; Kynoch v Old Griffinians; Leamington v Kettering; Leek v Trentham; Letchworth v Stockwood Park; Lichfield v Roundhay; Ludlow v Stoke Old Boys; Luton v Bedworth; Lutterworth v Rushden and Higham; Malvern v Lutonians; Manor Park v Pinley; Mansfield v Modena; Market Bosworth v Ashbourne; Market Drayton v Michelin; Market Rasen v Moffats; Marple v Buxton; Meden Vale v East Leake; Milton Keynes v Coventians; Newark v Scunthorpe; Newcastle v Bridgnorth; Newport v Gloucester Spartans; Northampton MO v Old Aldwinians; Northampton OS v Bedford Athletic; Nottinghamians v West Bridgford; Nuneaton OE v Old Yardleians; Oadby Wyggestonians v Kersley; Oakham v Old Wellingburians; Old Bosworthians v Southam; Old Grammarians v Biggleswade; O Laurentians v Trinity Guild; Old Leamingtonians v Stoneygate; Old Longtonians v Telford; Old Moseleians v Warwick; Old Newtonians v Old Coventrians; Penshore v Warley; Peterborough v Old Northamptonians; RAE Bedford v Northampton Heathens; Redditch v Old Halesonians; Rubery Owen v Birmingham City Officials; Rugby St Andrews v Long Eaton; Rugeley v Birchfield; St Leonards v Wulfrun; St Neots v Northampton BSOB; Selly Oak v Bournville; Sheffield Tigers v Chesterfield; Sleaford v Wigston; Southwell v South Leicester; South Wigston v Gartree; Standard v Old Warwickians; Stratford on Avon v Old Wheatlyans; Stourbridge v Bridham; Sutton Coldfield v Stoke on Trent; Syston v Long Buckby; Tamworth v Burton; Thimblemill v Old Oaks; Veesyans v Old Salesians; Wednesbury v Cannock; West Leamington v Aylestone St James; Willenhall v Wolstpool; Wolverhampton v Davenport; Woodrush v Spartans.

NORTH: Yorkshire Silver Trophy: Final: Knottingley v Wilsey (at Selby): Ackton v West Park Bramhope; Aspull v Newton-le-Willows; Bellon v Moortown; Bakewell Mannerians v All Spartans; Barnsley v Matlock; Barton v Adwick; Beverley v Hull Ionians; Birkenhead Park Wanderers v Liverpool College; Bishop Auckland v Sunderland; Blackpool v Metrowick; Blaydon v Redcar; BP Chemicals v Maltby Old Boys; Bridlington v Roundhegians; Burley v Hornsea; Carnforth v Vale of Lune Vikings; Chester v Old Anselmians; Cleckheaton v Old Hymerians; Colne and Nelson v Fylde XV; Congleton v Leek; Darnall Phoenix v Cleethorpes; De la Salle (Sheffield) v Moorbough; Dronfield v Sheffield Extra 1st; East Retford v Nottingham Casuals; Eccles v West Leeds; Gainsborough v Castle College; Goole v Harrogate; Grimsby v North Kesteven; Fylde v Northern; Halifax v Broughton Park; Halifax Vandals v Old Modernians; Harrogate v West Hartlepool; Heath Old Boys v Didsbury Toc H; Heaton Moor v Rochdale; Hessle v Yarnbury; Huddersfield v Pavlors; Huddersfield YMCA v Old Rishworthians; Hullensians v Hull and ER; Ilkley v Sheffield Oaks; Kendal v Middlesbrough; Kersal v Barnsley; Kirkby Lonsdale v Calder Vale; Knaresborough v Headingley Veterans; Leeds CSSA v Dinnington; Leeds Corinthians v Yorkshire CW; Leodiensians v Wetherby; Liverpool St Helens v Preston Grasshoppers; Lymm v Sedgley Park; Malton and Norton v Driffield; Marple v Buxton; Mersey Police v Mid-Cheshire College; Middlesbrough Wasps v Old Ottensians; Morley v Wharfedale; Mowden Park v Novocastrians; Newark v Scunthorpe; Northallerton v Whitby; North Ribblesdale v Skipton; Old Brodelians v Castleford; Ormskirk v Old Salians; Orrell v Otley; Osset v Wakefield Wasps; Phoenix Park v Morley Cavaliers; Rawmarsh v Westley Hills XV; Rodillians v Bradford Salems; Rossendale v Fleetwood; Rotherham v Old Crosleyans; Ruskin Park v Ashton-under-Lyne; Sale v Headingley; Selby v Doncaster; Sheffield v Hartlepool Rovers; Sheffield Tigers v Chesterfield; South Liverpool v Hightown; Stockbridge v Yorkshire Main; Thornensians v Sandal; Tupton v Armthorpe Markham; Vale of Lune v London Irish; Wallasey v Old Rockdarrians; Warrington v Oldham; Wath v Marist; Wensleydale v Wharfedale XV; Widnes v Keighley; Wigan v Leigh; Wigan College v Clitheroe; Wilmslow v Bradford and Bingley; Winnington Park v Aspatria; Wirral v Blackburn; Withernsea v Hullensians XV; York v Scarborough; York RI v Pocklington.

WEST: Gloucestershire Cup: Cheltenham v Gordon League; Clifton v Berry Hill; Coney Hill v Gloucester Spartans; Lydney v Thornbury; Matson v Avonmouth; Old Patesians v Cheltenham North. Cornwall Bitter: First round: Lankey-Fowey v Veor; RAF St Morgan v St Agnes; St Day v Redruth GSOB; St Just v Redruth Albany. Club matches: Bath CS v Bath Old Boys; Bishopston v Aretians; Bristol Utd v Bournemouth; BAC v Old Elizabethans; Bristol Harlequins v Imperial; Bristol Saracens v Wootton Bassett; Bristol Telephones v Chew Valley; Bude v Weybridge; Camborne v Cambridge Univ; Cheddar v Alec; Clevedon v Combe Down; Corsham v Old Colstonians; Crewkerne v Castle Cary; Devon and Cornwall Police v Truro; Exeter v Plymouth Alb; Frampton Cotterell v Chipping Sodbury; Frome v Old Bristolians; Gordano v Burnham-on-Sea; Hornets v St Mary's; Ivybridge v Wellington; Keynsham v Oldfield; Midsomer Norton v North Bristol; Minehead v Blagdon; Morgenians v Bridgwater Utd; Old Ashtonians v SW Gas; Old Redcliffians v St Brendan's Old Boys; Paignton v Te

EQUESTRIANISM: OLYMPIA ORGANIZERS CRITICIZED FOR QUALIFYING SYSTEM

IAN STEWART

Up and over: Vanessa Roberts and Pacifica negotiate a fence during the Young Show Jumper of the Future event yesterday

Smith has wild card trump

By Jenny MacArthur

Harvey Smith, who gained an eleventh-hour wild card entry to the Olympia show jumping championship, underlined his worth when he won the opening international class, the Cognac Courvoisier two-horse stakes at the show yesterday. He finished three seconds faster than the runner-up, Walter Gabathuler, of Switzerland.

Afterwards, Smith, who was given his wild card by Max Amman, the director of the World Cup, said he disapproved of the qualifying system for Olympia — the organizers take riders in their order of merit from the international and national ranking lists — because it always left out some of the top names.

"At the end of the day you want to have those who will win classes," Smith said. "You wouldn't want to run a golf tournament without Nicklaus would you?"

Smith's victory yesterday was achieved on two contrasting horses. Brook Street Shining Example, his first ride, is now 18 and will be retired at the end of the show.

Smith was clearly delighted that the old horse, who has won 46 classes with the Smith family as well as an Olympic team silver medal with Harvey's youngest son, Steven, was bowing out on a winning note.

His second horse yesterday, Raise the Clouds, is a Belgian bred six-year-old who is competing at his first international show.

He has been brought on from o novice by Smith's wife, Sue, and now looks to be fulfilling his early promise. Asked if a new young horse renewed his enthusiasm for the sport, Smith, aged 50, who competed in the 1968 and 1972 Olympic teams, said "I've never lost it."

Today following the Volvo World Cup qualifier in which he will ride Brook Street's Balharbour, Smith will receive a medal from Volvo to commemorate his being the first rider to jump in more than 100 world cup qualifiers. It will be Smith's 102nd.

Earlier in the afternoon Marie Edgar, who in August won her second successive junior European title, achieved another of her goals when she and Everest Unique, a six-year- old mare, owned by the Countess of Inchcape, won the Vauxhall Young Show Jumper of the Future.

The class is one of the most prestigious for young riders (under 21) who qualify on a points system based on 50 classes held throughout Britain. Amanda Lanni, who headed the points table after the qualifying round, surprisingly failed to reach the eight-horse jump-off yesterday after collecting four faults on Miss Disney in the opening round.

Miss Edgar, who is the only daughter of the trainer, Ted, was drawn fourth in the jump-off and, displaying the determined, acurate riding one has come to expect of her, recorded a clear round in 28.74sec.

With Nigel Coupe oo Intertudor Special collecting four faults the only remaining threat to Miss Edgar was Warren Clarke, the last to go on Fedosa, who was up on Miss Edgar's time until, frustratingly, incurring three faults at the final fence.

Thomas Fruhmann, Austria's leading rider, wasted little time in finding his form when he and the powerfully built Hanoverian, Grandeur, won the Crosse and Blackwell Turkey Stakes, the main event oo Thursday evening.

Fruhmann, who has an outstanding World Cup record with Grandeur — he woo two qualifiers last year — negotiated his way round the twisty jump-off course with ease to clip half a second off the time of the runner-up, Michael Whitaker, on Next Tees Hanauer.

Whitaker's older brother, John, surprising failed to reach the 16 horse jump-off when he and Next Milton hit e comparatively easy rustic fence in the first round.

RESULTS: Cognac Courvoisier Two-horse Stakes: 1, Brook Street Shining Example and Raise the Clouds (H Smith, GB), 0 in 61.53sec; 2, Moet et Chandon Corrado and Moet et Chandon Grand Seigneur (W Gabathuler, Switz), 3 in 64.45; 3, Rhapsody and Manfranchus (G Billington, GB), 5 in 66.46. Vauxhall Young Show Jumper of the Future: 1, Everest Unique (M Edgar, GB), 0 in 27.84; 2, Some Chance (J Chesworth, GB), 0 in 29.46; 3, Towersgion's Luke (J Tate, GB), 0 in 31.31. Crosse and Blackwell Christmas Turkey Stakes: 1, Grandeur (T Fruhmann, Austria), 0 in 28.05; 2, Next Tees Hanauer (M Whitaker, GB), 0 in 28.80; 3, Ahnox Rosella (L Beerbaum, WG), 0 in 29.85.

RACING: BOOKMAKERS' CHAIRMAN OFFERS SOLUTION TO STABLE LADS' PLIGHT

Wages must be priority rather than prize-money

Alfie Bruce, chairman of the National Association of Bookmakers for the past 20 years, recently completed his third term of office as an ex-officio member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board. Here, he makes a plea for racing's riches to be more wisely distributed

Despite all the claims to the contrary, racing in Britain has never been in better shape financially.

Over the past five years, the Horserace Betting Levy Board has seen its revenue grow from £20 million in 1984-85 to what is likely to be £37 million in the current year.

A further £20 million is being paid to racecourses over a five-year period for the daily transmission of satellite television into the off-course betting shops.

An additional million pounds or so from the telephone commentary services, eight million from sponsorship, increasing attendances and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of racehorse owners have given the racing industry a prosperity that it scarcely dreamed of in the mid-eighties.

Public perception of racing is that of a great sport in which Derby winners can be worth £20 million as they pass the winning post, £100,000 races are almost commonplace — there were 30 of them in 1989 — and the leading trainers and jockeys are properly positioned among the sporting millionaires.

Beneath the glittering surface of a seemingly prosperous industry, however, lie the unacceptable wages and conditions of a workforce which is among the lowest paid in the country.

The basic adult wage of £104.78 (plus another £11.79 for working five hours' overtime on alternate weekends) compares so unfavourably with the national average that it is little wonder there is a steady migration from the stable yard to the factory bench.

Sadly, it tends to be the experienced stable staff who, albeit reluctantly, leave their jobs for the richer pickings which become essential to them as they marry and raise a family.

The result, as any trainer will tell you, is that good stablemen are hard to find. Those who remain in racing are either wholly dedicated and committed to it, or of such poor calibre that they can hold down their jobs simply because there is little if any competition.

It is not too many years ago that the Dickensian conditions under which apprentice jockeys — often a euphemism for unpaid labour — were swept away.

Today promising young lads, and girls, entering the industry at 16 years of age, are likely to enjoy the experience and tuition of the British Racing School at Newmarket, where they learn the rudiments of their craft before joining a stable.

There they will look after two or three hugely valuable thoroughbreds for little more than £54 a week, including overtime, rising to £86.48 by the time they reach 18. The adult wage is payable from their nineteenth birthday.

It is difficult to blame any one section of the industry for the plight of the lads. The trainers who employ them are not, in most cases, living high off the hog themselves. Indeed, many of them struggle to make ends meet.

They cannot command the fees charged by the big fashionable stables yet moderate horses eat as much as a Derby winner and cost just as much to train.

Sadly, such animals have little chance of recovering either their capital cost or their keep, and all too often run in the colours of an owner who gives low priority to the payment of his training bill.

In contrast, the Arab sheikhs are seen to be winning millions, and the leading trainers and jockeys richly rewarded.

In the last Flat season, 70 per cent of the prize-money was won by less than two per cent of the owners; and in 1988, 20 per cent of the trainers enjoyed 80 per cent of the £34.4 million prize-money pool.

For the remainder, it has been a question of scrummaging after the crumbs. Arguably, there is nothing wrong with that. Racing is all about winning, and as in all sports the greatest rewards go to the triumphant.

Excellence, however, is relative, and in racing its proof lies in the legions of the vanquished. For every big-race winner, there are several thousand less talented horses, the overwhelming majority "also rans" at the bottom of the thoroughbred heap.

Half of all owners win nothing

According to the Racehorse Owners' Association, 50 per cent of all owners win nothing, not even as much as third prize in a selling hurdle race. Yet without them there are no standards by which the star performers can be judged.

It is the struggling owners and trainers of this great rump of racing thoroughbreds who would be in danger of being driven out of the sport were the minimum wages for stable staff brought up to a more appropriate level, and while the majority of them would genuinely like to improve the lot of their loyal, hard-working staff, they simply do not have the money with which to do so.

For them the news of several extra million pounds being added to the prize-money pool is of largely academic interest, a spur, perhaps, to the thought that one day, next year even, they will buy a cheap yearling who turns into a star.

Realistically, their sights will be set on a moderate maiden race at an unfashionable course in the hope that on the day in question the might of the Maktoum empire is not lined up against them.

Equally realistically, they know that their likely reward lies only in the enjoyment they get from participating in a great sport, of seeing their colours carried bravely if not victoriously.

As the costs of keeping a horse in training continue to escalate, paying the bills becomes harder, particularly at times like this when discretionary expenditure is under some pressure from a squeeze on the money supply. Curiously enough, the number of racehorse owners is increasing a statistic which reflects the growth in partnerships and multiple-ownership schemes rather than in the number of those who own their horses outright.

Broadening the base of ownership has attracted many to the sport who hitherto would not have been able to contemplate keeping a horse in training. Many struggle to do so even on a part-share basis and a major uplift in training fees to finance significantly higher wages could be the final straw.

Even now, the Racehorse Owners' Association reports that a third of its membership drops out each year, to be replaced, so far at least, by aspiring new owners.

The solution to the wages problem lies within the industry itself, for the huge slice of extra income it has enjoyed over the past five years has been used largely to boost prize-money, in the mistaken belief that this is the most efficient method of filtering the cash through to the workforce.

The owners' and trainers' associations have long maintained that only by boosting prize-money to the levels applying overseas will there be a realistic chance of getting to grips with stable wages. it is a fallacious claim in that the great majority of horses who win little if any prize-money will remain among the have-nots.

In order to ensure that all owners and trainers can benefit from the new wealth, the industry must find an alternative means of distribution without destroying the fundamental principle that the successful should reap the lion's share of the rewards.

Because bookmakers' turnover exceeded their expectations, the Levy Board, in the year ending March 31, 1989, enjoyed a surplus on revenue account of £7,421,000.

As a result, an extra £2.2 million was added to the prize-money allocation for the second half of 1989, bringing the board's total contribution for the year to £17.26 million.

Four years earlier, the prize-money contribution from the Levy was just £9.69 million, so no-one can accuse the board of failing to give increased prize-money a high priority.

In the current year, there is likely to be another healthy surplus on the board's budgetted revenue figures — perhaps as much as £4 million.

Such a sum, if used for the benefit of all owners, would enable trainers to raise their fees sufficiently to cover a major increase in the basic wage of stable staff. All owners could end up marginally better off. All stable staff would end up significantly better rewarded.

There is no reason to believe that £4 million could not be made available, and while it would be inappropriate for the board to make direct subsidy payments towards training fees, there is a precedent for a contribution to the travelling costs of racehorses.

In 1988, the 6,083 races which took place attracted n total of 69,010 runners: £4 million divided between those runners would provide a travelling grant of £58 per runner, per race.

The average number of horses in training month by month in 1988 was 11,842, indicating that, again on average, each horse ran fractionally under six times in a year.

Because at any one time there will be a significant number of horses which are unable to race for one reason or another, the actual number of runs per "active" horse is likely to average eight to 10, so that for the majority of owners a £58 travelling grant, payable as a fixed-fee regardless of the distance travelled, would be worth somewhere between £464 and £580 a year.

Should just half of the higher figure be taken back in increased training fees, the owner would still benefit by £290 per year, and the stable lad by the same amount. As each lad (or girl) does at least three horses, his total benefit from the scheme would be £870 a year — or £16.73 a week to add to his basic £104.78.

Healing industry's open sore

The new minimum wage scale would be enforceable under the Rules of Racing and conditional upon the issue of the trainer's annual licence.

It would be up to the staff themselves, in conjunction with Bill Adams, the dedicated and highly efficient secretary of the Stable Lads Association, to ensure that the minimum wages were paid, and the penalties for trainers who failed to do so should be severe.

Adams himself is an enthusiastic supporter of such a scheme, which was first mooted in *The Racegoer* magazine and developed by the National Association of Bookmakers.

Thus those who provide the Levy, the punters and the bookmakers, have already indicated that they would like to see the board give stable wages top priority. Many owners and trainers agree, and would rest more comfortably in the knowledge that an open sore within the industry had been healed.

Prize-money will almost certainly be increased next year anyway and, if at the same time the scandal of low wages is resolved, the whole indnstry, including the workforce, will be able to look forward to enjoying the prosperity which beckons in the nineties.

FISHING

Revival of the gospel for dry fly

By Conrad Voss Bark

The book that spread the gospel of the dry fly from Hampshire round the world, to the astonishment, surprise and pleasure of fly fishers everywhere, has been republished in a kind of religious fervour as a centenary edition.

In 1889 much that Halford wrote was new. He was a man with a private income who spent every day for years brooding on fly fishing. He was a pupil of George Marryat, to whom *Dry Fly Fishing* is dedicated. They worked together on the Houghton waters of the Test, experimentlog with fly dressings, trying them out in practice.

Halford's work was a revelation to anglers of his time. How does it read to us a hundred years later?

Avoid the first 48 pages which is all about out-of-date tackle. By page 53 we find that his advice on flies and presentation contain valuable and in many cases surprising information.

He is, astonishingly, not the purist he has been made out to be, not in this book. If the fish are not rising then "I for one am a strong advocate of floating a cocked fly over a likely place."

Moreover, he did not make the rule which is emphasized on practically every chalk stream today: that dry fly fishing is fishing the fly upstream. On the contrary. He explains how the fly can be fished downstream to fish in difficult positions by a technique he calls drift fishing. It is almost exactly the same casting technique as the downstream dry fly fishing as practised in the United States, where it is called the reach cast.

So much for the idea that Halford was an old buffer, an idea passed on mostly by those who had never read what he had written and had an invert snobbery about the Test.

However, avoid his advice on casting, which is out of date, and be tolerant about his dislike of nymphs and the slightly prosey style of writing which reminded me of Bulwer-Lytton or some of the thickest passages of Macaulay. Make allowances. When you get down to practical fishing, he is as much a modern as Goddard and Clarke.

Dermot Wilson, himself probably our leading dry fly fisherman, writes a long and exuberant foreword which gives almost everything we know about Halford and a good deal we do not. Of the many stories about Halford, I like best the one by David Jacques, another Test fisherman, who said that the dry fly would have come in any case one way or another and, paraphrasing Voltaire: "If Halford had not existed it would have been necessary to invent him."

***Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice*, by F. M. Halford, hardback, boxed, with the original illustrations, Witherby, £25.**

MOTOR RACING

Evolutionary Renault engine

By John Blunsden

Renault Sport have announced a new version of their V10 Formula One engine for next season. Lighter, shorter and lower than the type RS1 with which the French company made its grand prix comeback this season, the new RS2 has been given its first track tests with the Canon Williams team, whose drivers, Riccardo Patrese and Thierry Boutsen, will continue to have exclusive use of Renault engines in Formula One.

Although 1989 was to be their "learning year," and top priority was given to reliability rather than maximum power, Renault made rapid progress throughout the season, during which Patrese started from pole position in Hungary and Boutsen won two grands prix (in Canada and Australia). The two drivers experienced only five engine-related retirements from 32 starts.

The RS1 engine was seen in its original form in the opening race in Brazil but subsequently it appeared in no fewer than five evolutionary forms as the season progressed.

Apart from the more compact dimensions, mainly resulting from e change from belt-driven to gear-driven pumps and distributor, the RS2 engine has a remodelled intake system incorporating Magneti Marelli electronic injection and ignitioo equipment as well as more rigid chossis-mounting arrangements.

YACHTING

Juno IV is moving into good handicap position

From Bob Ross, Sydney

Juno IV, one of the British representatives, made a clever start to be well placed in the early stages of the 90 nautical mile second race of the Admiral's Cup yesterday.

Juno IV, a Castro 45 owned by Mike Peacock and skippered by Mike McIntyre, should do well in this race — from Sydney Harbour to Bird Islet near Norah Head, with the leg to the islet a shy spinnaker reach in o 10-12 knot south-east breeze.

McIntyre, with Jo Richards calling the tactics, speared off towards the leeward end of the starting line in the harbour for the close reach to the Heads.

Leaving the harbour, Juno IV looked to be in a good handicap position as the spinnakers were hoisted.

The other two members of the British team had more of a struggle. The chartered Farr 50 Heaven Can Wait, skippered by Harold Cudmore, was behind Cyclone, the Frers 50 of the New South Wales team and the Farr 50 Foo 2 (Hong Kong), formerly Jamarella of Britain's winning Admiral's Cup team and Great News of the NSW team.

The third British yacht, Canon Express (Eddie Warden Owen), was part of the usual close bundle of One Tonners, again headed by Southern Cross (*Bill Gilbert*) of the Australian team.

Going into the race, New South Wales led oo 88 points from Australia 86, Britain 42, Western Australia 70 and Hong Kong 59.

CYCLING

Kelly sees out year by taking up a challenge

Sean Kelly, Ireland's World Cup champion, has his last race of the year tomorrow, a 30-mile road event starting, appropriately, in Sean Kelly Square, Carrick-on-Suir, his home town in County Tipperary (Peter Bryan writes).

The race, open to professionals and amateurs, will give young Irish hopefuls, and a contingent of riders from the United Kingdom, o rare opportunity for o tilt at Kelly, who has dominated world road racing for the past six years.

Stephen Roche, confident of regaining the form that won him the Tours of Italy and France and the world road title in 1987, is also likely to compete. The recurrence of a knee injury has kept him out of the main European classics this season.

CRICKET

Australia aim for sixth win of 1989

Hobart (Reuter) — Australia will attempt to secure their sixth win of an unbeaten 1989 and continue their best run of success for 15 years when they face Sri Lanka in the second Test match, starting today.

The last Test of the 1980s between the youngest Test nation and one of the two most senior should see Sri Lanka, their confidence boosted by a draw in Brisbane, back to full strength for the inaugural Test on Tasmanian soil.

Rumesh Ratnayake, who missed the first Test with a side injury, is expected to join Ravi Ratnayeke, fit again after bowling only 8.5 overs in Brisbane, and Graeme Labrooy in the touring side's pace attack.

Australia have gone off the boil since returning from England but have still won five of their 10 Test matches this year, the best unbeaten spell since Ian Chappell's side went 13 games without defeat between 1972 and 1974.

AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (capt), D C Boon, M A Taylor, T M Moody, D M Jones, S R Waugh, I A Healy, C G Rackemann, T M Alderman, P R Sleep, M O Hughes, G D Campbell.

Yorkshire lead attack against four-day plan

By Martin Searby

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) was yesterday accused of ignoring the wishes of county members in its desire to see four-day games introduced for the 1991 season.

Tony Vann, a senior member of Yorkshire's general committee and a past cricket chairman, made the claim after e meeting with his Leeds constituents, who unanimously voted against the proposals.

"The matter was raised, fully discussed and when I asked for a show of hands, 55 were against four-day cricket and oo one in favour," Vann said. "I have had feedback from other areas in Yorkshire such as Dewsbury and Keighley with exactly the same response and I believe the TCCB are riding roughshod over members' wishes.

"It should be remembered that there are no sponsors and not even any county teams without the support of the grass roots, who put about £2 million a year into the game and their opioioos must count for something."

Vann, who has regularly travelled round the county circuit with Yorkshire, believes that the views are reflected at all the other 16 counties and is willing to co-ordinate a national movement against the four-day scheme. He is not without some experience in upsetting apple-carts.

Yorkshire are also against the plans for a 16-match county programme on purely cricketing grounds and Brian Close, a vehement opponent, has an ally in Doug Insole of Essex.

Close, in his usual forthright style, said: "What's the use of playing four-day games on bad pitches? The captains may be for it because it gives them more time to play about with but there is no evidence that even one player has been improved by the four-day game, nor will there be until the pitches and playing conditions are put right. Financial considerations are nothing to do with me. I want to see the game put right and this is not the way to do it."

Classic Thoroughbreds plan to have horses trained in US

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

In an attempt to change the luck of the hard-pressed Classic Thoroughbreds plc, Vincent O'Brien has decided to send five of their three-year-olds to *California to be trained by Gary* Jones.

The quiotet ioclodes Saratogan, who started second favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, but finished only ninth behind Nashwan. He continued to disappoint subsequently but looks the sort to be suited by American racing conditions. Classic Fame, the company's only runner to achieve group one status, will also be sent to America.

This news was given to shareholders by O'Brien at an extraordinary general meeting held in Dublin yesterday to announce details of a new rights issue.

O'Brien admitted that 1989 had been a very disappointing season and in particular referred to the knee injury sustained by the very fast colt Puissance.

With the majority of the horses failing to achieve their *anticipated* resale value, shareholders are now being asked to subscribe for two new B ordinary shares for every five existing shares held by them.

The original shares were quoted at 20p but heve halved in value and the new B shares will carry the same rights as the old ones which are being offered at 9p per share. Dealings will commence on Monday morning in Dublin.

If fully subscribed this will bring more than £2 million in additional capital to help cover the training bills for the next 12 months.

In response to a question from the floor, O'Brien said: "I will be reducing my training fees to the company from £47 per day to £35."

Champion of golden age dies

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

Tim Molony, one of the outstanding post-war National Hunt jockeys, died on Thursday, aged 70.

Renowned for his strength and courage, Molony was champion jockey five times between 1949 and 1955.

His most notable successes came in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, on Knock Hard (1953), and the Champion Hurdle, a race he won for four consecutive seasons on Hatton's Grace (1951) and Sir Ken (1952-54).

Molony was a central figure in a period widely held to be the golden era of National Hunt riders, when his contemporaries included his younger brother, Martin, Bryan Marshall and Aubrey Brabazon.

Although not always the most polished of riders in a finish, he had few peers at presenting a horse at a fence.

Coolmore's Russian link

Coolmore Stud is to enter into a joint breeding and racing venture with Russia (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

John Magnier, a partner in the Co Tipperary stud, announced yesterday that the four-year-old Kris Kringle, the winner of two group two races in Ireland last year when trained by Vincent O'Brien, would stand as a stallion in Russia in 1990.

Kris Kringle, who cost $375,000, will be accompanied by six yearlings purchased by Magnier from Irish studs.

The move, though unusual, is not without precedent. In 1960 the London Bloodstock Agency purchased a number of Irish yearlings which included Delfin and Livan, the winners of the 1962 Russian Derby and 2,000 Guineas respectively.

Randolph Place target

Randolph Place emerged as a likely candidate for the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby on Boxing Day when sweeping back to form in the Drumjohn Handicap Chase at Ayr yesterday.

Gordon Richards, who has always held the eight-year-old in the highest regard, has been *using him as a hack to help* regain confidence. Randolph Place proved that the treatment is working when comfortably beating the top weight, Villierstown, by 2½ lengths.

Mark Dwyer, who partnered the 6-4 favourite, Ibn Majed, took a crashing fall at the fourth. He was taken to Ayr County Hospital for x-rays but was later discharged.

"I've hurt my neck and it's very sore," Dwyer said later. "There is nothing broken but I won't be riding tomorrow."

Malton trainer Malcolm Jefferson registered his first double for two years with Schiehallion and Tancred Sand.

Schiehallion, previously the winner of two National Hunt flat races, registered his first victory over hurdles when beating the favourite, Ballydaly Express, by a length in the Gatehead Novices' Hurdle.

Racing next week

MONDAY: No racing.
TUESDAY: No racing.
WEDNESDAY: Bangor, Folkestone, Southwell (AW).
THURSDAY: Kelso, Towcester.
FRIDAY: Hexham, Ludlow, Uttoxeter.
SATURDAY: Chepstow, Edinburgh, Hereford, Lingfield Park (AW).

Belgian runner at Southwell

The all-weather meeting at Southwell today takes on an international flavour when Allan Smith, the Ostend trainer, runs Royal Brink in the second division of the Isle Of Wight Claiming Stakes (Paul Wheeler writes).

Royal Brink, who has good form in Belgium, is one of four horses Smith has housed with Mick Ryan in Newmarket. "He's been placed in two listed races. And before that won over 7½ furlongs at Beitafort's all-weather track," Smith said.

Smith began his racing career as an apprentice with Newmarket trainer Jack Clayton. He moved to Belgium 10 years ago and rode 70 winners before taking out a trainer's licence in 1983.

RAPID RACELINE
TOTE RESULTS
0898 · 168 · 168
For individual course information...
Call 0898 168+ Number Below
LIVE COMMENTARY
FAST RESULTS
Southwell 127 128
Ascot 165 166
Ayr 165 166
Nottingham 119 120
Newcastle 149 --
Sedgefield 150 --
Thurlaston Racewatch 122 --
American Football 182 --
William HILL

Tonights The Night to land gamble

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Today looks like being the day for those who have gambled ante-post on **Tonights The Night** to win the valuable SGB Handicap Chase at Ascot.

For confidence is running high at Rhonehurst, in Upper Lambourn, where he is now trained by Oliver Sherwood, that he can take full advantage of his attractive handicap mark.

Formerly trained in Yorkshire by Monica Dickinson, Tonights The Night made a highly encouraging start for his current handler when he won the Badger Beer Handicap Chase first time out over two miles five furlongs at Wincanton.

In order to land my nap now, Tonights The Night must be equally effective over three miles because one of his principal opponents is Envopak Token, who was second to him on the Somerset track.

Oliver Sherwood: confidence in Tonights The Night

For having won the Sun Alliance Chase over three miles at Cheltenham last March, Envopak Token will certainly be in his element over today's trip now that he will be meeting Tonights The Night on 3lb better terms.

Unless I was greatly mistaken, though, Tonights The Night beat him more easily than even the judge's verdict of three lengths might have suggested and I am led to believe that he has come on a lot since.

Having won over three miles at Kelso two seasons ago, Tonights The Night should not find today's trip too far. I also recall him having the class to beat Royal Sing and Majestic Buck, both decent horses, over 2½ miles at Sandown that season.

So, Tonights The Night appears to have the right blend of speed and stamina in what seems sure to be a fast-run race.

Having won a Whitbread and finished second in the Hennessy over longer trips, Brown Windsor will not allow the race to develop into a crawl. And Bigsun, who had to miss the Hennessy because he was coughing, is also likely to help ensure a good pace.

Yet, I believe that they may be found wanting when Jamie Osborne asks Tonights The Night for his final effort in the straight.

In the event of Richard Dunwoody and John White failing in their quest to win the day's main race on Brown Windsor and Bigsun respectively, healthy remuneration should still come their way earlier with The Proclamation (12.15) and Slalom (1.20).

The Proclamation, Dunwoody's ride in the Peter Cox Novices' Chase, is held in very high regard by Nicky Henderson. The six-year-old was a costly purchase in Ireland last spring before he ran out an impressive winner of a valuable hurdle race at Punchestown.

Today he is being thrown in at the deep end against Deep Colonist, the conqueror of Waterloo Boy at Worcester, but I expect him to come through this stern test with flying colours.

Slalom, White's ride in the Youngmans Long Walk Hurdle, is a versatile chestnut who is equally effective over hurdles and fences.

This talented performer looks quite capable of giving his shrewd trainer, Michael Robinson, another good prize following some heart-warming recent homework.

At Ayr, Gordon Richards can land another double with Tartan Takeover (2.0) and Carrick Hill Lad (2.30), both of whom impressed enormously last time.

ASCOT

Selections

By Mandarin

12.15 The Proclamation.
12.50 Nodform.
1.20 Slalom.
1.55 TONIGHTS THE NIGHT (nap).
2.30 Nohalmdun.
3.00 Auction Law.

By Michael Seely
1.20 SLALOM (nap). 1.55 Tonights The Night.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.50 NODFORM.

Going: good to firm

12.15 PETER COX NOVICES CHASE (£6,696: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

101 P-211F1 IMADYNA 7 (D,F) (E Parker) D Barons 7-11-11 ..... S Earle 86
102 111U1R GAY EDITION 23 (C,D,BF,F,G) (A Hobbs) P Hobbs 7-11-6 ..... Peter Hobbs 70
103 11101P-1 DEEP COLONIST 21 (D,S) (G Adcock) J Gifford 7-11-1 ..... R Rowe ● 88
104 10P41-1 MASTER BARN 47 (F) (P Rogers) R Frost 9-11-1 ..... J Frost 69
105 4/4F0-34 AMBULLAH 21 (T Thom) J Bridger 9-10-12 ..... G Moore 63
106 P43-RP8 GET AWAY 81 (S Turton) B Turton 7-10-12 ..... — —
107 198311- THE PROCLAMATION 235 (G,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 8-10-12 ..... N Dunwoody —

BETTING: 4-6 Deep Colonist, 7-2 The Proclamation, 4-1 Imadyna, 13-2 Gay Edition, 10-1 Master Barn, 33-1 others.

1988: LARCHWOOD 7-10-10 K Mooney (7-2) S Christian 8 ran

FORM FOCUS IMADYNA was left clear after the fall of French Goblin when beating the remounted Going Gets Tough a distance at Cheltenham (2m 4f, firm); earlier won very easily by 3l from Aesoplaud (levels) at Worcester (2m 4f). GAY EDITION would have beaten Career Say at Ludlow (2m 4f, firm) last time but for taking the wrong course after the last fence; earlier won 8 of her 7 starts.
DEEP COLONIST made an impressive chasing debut when beating Waterloo Boy 2l at Worcester (2m 4f, chase, good to soft) and looks sure to improve.
MASTER BARN beat Hit The Ceiling 8l at Wolverhampton (3m 1f, firm). AMBULLAH, is still to win in 49 starts, was 16l 4th of 5 to Going Gets Tough at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm).
THE PROCLAMATION, an expensive purchase from Ireland and makes his chasing debut. Last season beat Tounsen Prince 6l in A Punchestown listed hurdle (2m, good).
Selection: DEEP COLONIST

12.50 HSS HIRE SHOPS HURDLE RACE (Listed race: £6,056: 2m) (9 runners) BBC 1

201 122111- CALAPAEZ 311 (CD,F,G,S) (T Blake) Miss S Sanders 5-11-6 ..... M Perrett 93
202 2226-01 NODFORM 28 (C,D,F,S) (H Joel) J Gifford 6-11-6 ..... R Rowe ● 88
203 116611/ ROYAL ILLUSION 464F (D,G,S) (J Liebman) G Moore 5-11-6 ..... J Osborne —
204 2F6115- BANK VIEW 221F (D,G,S) (Bank View Hire Ltd) N Tinkler 4-11-4 ..... M Hill 97
205 211-5 FOREST SUN 14 (BF,S) (Selsburst Paper Ltd) G Balding 4-10-8 ..... J Frost 88
206 16P-P GROSSEN 62 (D,S) (E Wade) Miss P Hall 6-10-8 ..... ● Powell 83
207 1114-0 PERSILLANT 21 (D,F,G,S) (R Somerset) N Tinkler 5-10-6 ..... R Dunwoody 95
208 3223-F3 QUAI D'ORSAY 8 (B,D,BF,S) (Mrs V O'Mahony) F O'Mahony 4-10-6 ..... M Kinane 91
209 60-255P TOUCH OF SPEED 48 (D,F) (M Barrow) D Williams 8-10-6 ..... M Richards 88

BETTING: 5-4 Calapaez, 7-4 Nodform, 5-1 Persillant, 8-1 Forest Sun, 10-1 Bank View, 14-1 Royal Illusion, 16-1 Quai D'Orsay, 25-1 others.

1988: CELTIC CHIEF 5-11-8 R Dunwoody (2-5 fav) (Mrs M Rimell) 7 ran.

FORM FOCUS CALAPAEZ best Rustle ¾l in a listed hurdle here (3m, good) but has not been out since February and may find this trip on the short side.
NODFORM showed improved form when beating Floyd 8l here (2m 4f, good to firm). ROYAL ILLUSION has not been out since beating Combermere 5l in a feature race at Liverpool (2m, good) with CALAPAEZ (same terms) over 13¾l 8th in April 88.
BANK VIEW 5l 3rd of 9 to Vayrua in a Liverpool feature race (2m, soft); previously beat Sweet City 10l at Newcastle (2m, good). PERSILLANT put up best effort on penultimate start when 7¾l 4th of 12 to Batillion at Kempton (2m, good).
FOREST SUN, one of the best bumper horses of last season, was not knocked about on his hurdling debut when 10l 5th of 23 to Freeline. Finishing at Chepstow (2m, good).
Selection: NODFORM

1.20 YOUNGMANS LONG WALK HURDLE (Feature race: £10,317: 3m 2f) (11 runners) BBC 1

301 35P11-P KNIGHTON LAD 42 (D,S) (J South) O Sherwood 6-11-1 ..... J Osborne 61
302 12P11-3 SLALOM 31 (BF,G,S) (Mrs M Russell) M Robinson 8-11-1 ..... J White ● 96
303 20/2061- MRS MUCK 337 (C,G,S) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-10 ..... C Llewellyn 97
304 PP0P46- BLUFF COVE 397 (CD,F,G,S) (Dickins Ltd) R Hollinshead 7-10-8 ..... N Dunwoody 97
305 023-323 COMBERMERE 29 (C,D,S) (J Joseph) R Frost 5-10-8 ..... J Frost 90
306 11112/0 PRAGADA 35 (D,S) (Mrs M McGlone) J Gifford 6-10-8 ..... R Rowe —
307 512313- ROYAL ATHLETE 283 (S) (G Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-8 ..... G Gallagher 81
308 2143-01 SANTELLA BOBKES 47 (B,G,S) (R Tatlers) G Harwood 4-10-8 ..... M Perrett 98
309 211-114 THE PIKE 22 (D,BF,F) (P Aconley) Mrs V Aconley 6-10-8 ..... J J Quinn 70
310 0/33113- UNDAUNTED 252 (F,S) (S Burrough) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-8 ..... S de Haan 97
311 1312P-F YOUNG BAVARD 22 (F) (Mrs D Bulk) D Murray Smith 6-10-8 ..... M Bowlby 97

BETTING: 9-4 Slalom, 11-4 Santella Bobkes, 6-1 Pragada, 13-2 Young Bavard, 8-1 Mrs Muck, 10-1 Undaunted, 12-1 Combermere, 16-1 Knighton Lad, 20-1 others.

1988: FRENCH GOBLIN 6-11-1 Peter Hobbs (3-1) J Gifford 10 ran

FORM FOCUS SLALOM 8l 3rd of 7 to Deep Colonist at Worcester (2m 4f chase, good to soft); on his last start over hurdles beat Old Melon a head at Liverpool (3m 1f, soft).
MRS MUCK, goes well first time out, beat Mr Gossip 3l here (3m, good) with BLUFF COVE (6lb worse off) 32l 6th. BLUFF COVE 16l 4th of 8 to 5lr Crusty at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to firm) on his penultimate start.
COMBERMERE 16l 3rd of 5 to Nodforma here (2m 4f, good to firm). SANTELLA BOBKES beat COMBERMERE (4lb worse off) 6l at Wolverhampton (2m 6f 110yd, good).
UNDAUNTED 2¾l 3rd of 10 to Morley Street at Liverpool (2m 4f, heavy). This longer trip should suit.
Selection: SANTELLA BOBKES

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
N Twiston-Davies	8	6	50.0
M H Easterby	7	24	29.2
B Preece	6	24	25.0
D Murray Smith	3	16	18.8
N Henderson	12	74	16.2
J Gifford	20	135	14.8

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
J Osborne	6	21	28.6
Peter Hobbs	10	39	25.6
M Perrett	4	18	22.2
Mr M Armytage	3	14	21.4
K Mooney	10	51	19.6
R Rowe	14	97	14.4

1.55 SGB HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £28,093: 3m) (12 runners) BBC 1

401 41-1112 PANTO PRINCE 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Warren) C Popham 8-11-10 ..... R Powell 96
402 1P32/2-F FOYLE FISHERMAN 88 (C,D,G,S) (J Hutchinson) J Gifford 10-11-5 ..... R Rowe 93
403 14212-2 ENVOPAK TOKEN 37 (D,F,G,S) (F Arthur) J Gifford 5-11-1 ..... Peter Hobbs 94
404 4131-12 BROWN WINDSOR 21 (BF,F,G,S) (W Shand Kydd) N Henderson 7-11-0 ..... J White ● 98
405 2264P1- SMART TAR 241 (F,S) (Mrs E Courage) M Wilkinson 5-11-0 ..... C Llewellyn 93
406 1-11221 SEAGRAM 8 (CD,F,G,S) (E Parker) D Barons 8-10-13 (5ex) ..... N Hawke 96
407 222023- SUN RISING 258 (B,CD,G,S) (Queen Elizabeth) F Walwyn 11-10-12 ..... K Mooney 98
408 34116P- BARTRES 292 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Bulk) D Murray Smith 18-10-7 ..... M Bowlby 93
409 1F6/51-1 TONIGHTS THE NIGHT 37 (D,G,S) (J Poynton) O Sherwood 6-10-7 ..... J Osborne 94
410 243015-2 BIGSUN 98 (D,BF,F,G) (J Hore) D Nicholson 5-10-2 ..... N Dunwoody 96
411 645P33/ VON TRAPPE 938 (D,F,G,S) (P Bancroft) M Oliver 12-10-1 ..... M Perrett —
412 4/11-21F SOLIDASAROCK 21 (D,F,G,S) (L Randall) R Akehurst 7-10-0 ..... L Harvey 80

● Von Trappe will only run if there is overnight rain

Long handicap: Solidasarock 9-3.

BETTING: 7-2 Tonights The Night, 4-1 Brown Windsor, 7-1 Envopak Token, 6-1 Panto Prince, 10-1 Bigsun, 12-1 Smart Tar, Seagram, 14-1 Foyle Fisherman, 16-1 others.

1988: BALLYHANE 7-16-4 Peter Hobbs (13-8 jt-fav) J Gifford 5 ran

FORM FOCUS PANTO PRINCE 4l 2nd to Pagwell Bay (gave 6lb) in Kempton handicap (2m 4f, good); earlier defeated SEAGRAM (14lb better off) 3l in listed event at Devon (2m 1f, good to firm).
ENVOPAK TOKEN won the Sun Alliance chase at Cheltenham (3m, soft) in March defeating Nick The Brief 1l with BROWN WINDSOR (1lb better off) ¾l 3rd.
BROWN WINDSOR, won last seasons Whitbread Gold Cup, was a creditable nk 2nd to Ghotar in Hennessy at Newbury (3m 2f 82yd, good to firm).
SMART TAR stayed on well to defeat Sam Da Vinci 5l on final start last season in Cheltenham handicap, (3m 2f, good to soft).
SEAGRAM won a handicap here on penultimate start when defeating Black Spur sh hd; latest 3rd to Royal Cazar in Cheltenham handicap (3m 1f, firm).
TONIGHTS THE NIGHT quickened from last to defeat ENVOPAK TOKEN (3lb better off) 3l on reappearance in Wincanton handicap (2m 5f, good).
Selection: TONIGHTS THE NIGHT

2.30 FROGMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£9,240: 2m) (8 runners)

501 3FFR-20 VODKATINI 36 (CD,F,G,S) (D Richardson Ltd) J Gifford 18-11-10 ..... N Rowe 98
502 10/55-33 PRIDEAUX BOY 14 (D,F,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) C Roach 11-11-4 ..... J Shortt 92
503 1221-10 PRIZE ASSET 36 (CD,F,G) (Mrs C Jamest) P Hobbs 9-10-11 ..... S Earle 91
504 T1148-1 NOHALMDUN 7 (D,F,G,S) (Ucolay Farms Ltd) M H Easterby 5-10-7 ..... L Wyer 86
505 1154-22 SPRINGHOLM 21 (D,F,G,S) (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 7-10-6 ..... R Dunwoody 94
506 51U-254 HOGMANAY 14 (F,G) (Mrs R Casey) P Felgate 7-10-1 ..... J Osborne ● 98
507 21212-6 BLUEBERRY KING 42 (D,BF,F,G) (Pell-mail Partners) A Turnell 6-10-0 ..... L Harvey 88
508 31U443- OUTLAW 249 (D,F,G,S) (H Weiss) J Edwards 10-10-0 ..... D Tegg 97

Long handicap: Outlaw 9-8.

BETTING: 3-1 Nohalmdun, 7-2 Vodkatini, 5-1 Springholm, 6-1 Prize Asset, 8-1 Prideaux Boy, Hogmaney, 12-1 Blueberry King, 16-1 Outlaw.

1988: IDA'S DELIGHT 9-10-0 P Dennis (8-1) J Charlton 7 ran

FORM FOCUS PRIDEAUX BOY one paced 4½l 3rd to Long Engagement with HOGMANAY (17lb better off) 8l 4th in Sandown handicap (2m 18yd, good to firm); previously 7½l 3rd to Meldaour on reappearance in handicap over course and distance (good to firm).
PRIZE ASSET beat Ida's Delight 8l on reappearance in listed handicap over course and distance (firm); latest 14l 9th to Joint Sovereignty with VODKATINI (3lb better off) 1½l 10th in Maclaison at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good).
NOHALMDUN kept on well to defeat Ida's Delight ¾l on seasonal bow in Cheltenham handicap (2m, firm).
SPRINGHOLM ran on well close home to finish 1l 2nd to Bambrook Again (gave 27lb) in Newbury handicap (2m 160yd, good to firm).
BLUEBERRY KING finished 8l 2nd to Pin's Pride in listed novices' event at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good to soft) on final start last term.
Selection: SPRINGHOLM

3.0 HAMPTON COURT HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £3,758: 2m 4f) (30 runners)

601 122111- ARCTIC TEAL 246 (D,G,S) (Mrs P Robeson) D Sherwood 5-12-0 ..... D McCain (7) 86
602 3201-11 AUCTION LAW 23 (D,F,G,S) (T Gittins) D Barons 5-11-7 ..... M Armytage 92
603 3P21-46 KAMRISE 12 (S) (Mrs L Field) G Balding 7-11-2 ..... S Mellon (7) 83
604 11P/ THORNVILLE 637 (G,S) (S Turner) S Turton 9-11-0 ..... — —
605 40120- SOMEBODY 343F (S) (C Cheesman) J White 5-11-0 ..... M Hardy (7) 83
606 1355-30 PROPERO 35 (BF,G,S) (Mrs S Wills) J Gifford 4-10-12 ..... C Burnett-Wells (7) 97
607 430-006 LITTLE TORO 11 (V,D,F,S) (J Bishop) G Balding 7-10-12 ..... D Oxley (7) 95
608 426P/ POWYS 881 (G,S) (R E A Bot Ltd) Mrs E Heath 9-10-11 ..... P Harding-Jones (5) —
609 2N22P-6 ESHA NESS 21 (G,S) (Dobanacam Racing Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-10 ..... R White (7) 94
610 2211P2- PRINCE SATIRE 54F (D,S) (Britannic Travel Ltd) R Akehurst 6-10-10 ..... T McCarthy (7) ● 99
611 0-11136 GEOSTAR 21 (D,F,G) (W Morgan) J Leigh 0-10-8 ..... W Morgan (7) 98
612 483104/ COMA GLEN 849 (S) (Mrs M Wiggin) T Forster 6-10-7 ..... — —
613 21P-04 FREESTONE 14 (CD,BF,F) (R Tootti) N Henderson 4-10-6 ..... G Johnson Houghton (7) 98
614 361P10- POPESWOOD 246 (S) (N Hitchins) W Wightman 6-10-5 ..... G Kite (7) 94
615 4-12215 GOLD TINT 23 (B,D,F,S) (Mrs A Mulligan) T McGovern 4-10-4 ..... C Farrell (7) 93
616 330-123 WARNER FOR LEISURE 42 (F,G,S) (T Warner Sports) P Hobbs 11-10-2 Miss S Hobbs (7) 94
617 64023-5 ROYAL SHEPHERD 88 (BF,F,S) (Mrs K Perring) G Balding 8-10-1 ..... N Russell (7) 89
618 3430-43 ROSEFUL PRINCE 8 (G,S) (C Mitchell) C Mitchell 8-10-0 ..... S Mitchell (7) 94
619 232P23 PLATONIC AFFAIR 28 (D,F,G,S) (K Brand) D Wilson 8-10-0 ..... Miss S Hargadroyd (7) 92
620 3/21206- BAGS 282 (S) (D Ward-Bailey) J Fox 5-10-0 ..... J Saunders (7) 83
621 206P-21 RECORD FLIGHT 18 (CD,F,S) (F Crumpler) R Hodges 8-10-0 ..... C Maude (7) 92
622 312/0P6- MR CARACTACUS 285 (D,F) (J Mandeville) G Gracey 8-10-0 ..... Miss Z Davison (7) —
623 11/UFUP- MASTER MUCK 380 (S) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0 ..... — —
624 8000/6 GEX 18 (S) (D Bass) Miss L Bower 6-10-0 ..... — —
625 604085- WILLOWBEND 292 (Mrs A Evans) D Williams 6-10-0 ..... L Neale (7) —
626 54-6548 KINGSWOOD REGOPAL 14 (F,G) (G Brown) A Moore 0-10-0 ..... G Brown (7) 75
627 0P4F/04- WHOEVER 291 (S) (C Ferris) J Davies 7-10-0 ..... Miss J Jenner (7) —
628 0/F/04- RAGESCA 284 (Mrs B Dukes) Mrs B Dukes 16-10-0 ..... M Holdworth (7) —
629 PP60-PP TIME MODULE 17 (Mrs D Scott) D Scott 5-10-0 ..... J Scott (7) —
630 P0-P5P HARD HOLLOW 19 (J Cooper) B Smart 4-10-0 ..... P Cooper (7) —

Long handicap: Platonic Affair 0-13, Bags 0-13, Record Flight 9-11, Mr Caractacus 9-8, Master Muck 8-8, Gex 8-3, Willowseq 7-10, Kingswood Regopal 7-9, Whoever 7-7, Ragesca 7-4, Time Module 7-0, Hard Hollow 6-12.

BETTING: 9-2 Auction Law, 11-2 Arctic Teal, 8-1 Freestone, 7-1 Prince Satira, 10-1 Esha Ness, 12-1 Royal Shepherd, 14-1 Propero, Popeswood.

1988: BRANDON PIER 5-9-11 Miss S Lawrence (6-1) D Elsworth 15 ran

FORM FOCUS ARCTIC TEAL completed handicap hat-trick at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good) in April defeating Abbeydora 6l with ROYAL SHEPHERD (4lb better off) 6l 6th and POPESWOOD (2lb better off) 12th.
AUCTION LAW beat Enborne Lad 3l with GOLD TINT (8lb better off) 8l 5th at Haydock (2m 6f, good).
PRINCE SATIRE 12l 2nd to Old Kilpatrick in Towcester claimer (2m, heavy) on final start last term. FREESTONE failed to justify favouritism in Sandown handicap (2m 5f 75yd, good) finishing 2¾l 4th to Wahiba.
PLATONIC AFFAIR 5l 3rd to Kings Folly in conditional jockeys handicap at Newbury (2m 4f 120yd, good to firm); previously 3l 2nd to Bradbury Star with ESHA NESS (3lb better off) 10½l 5th in Kempton handicap (2m 4f, good).
RECORD FLIGHT ran on strongly to defeat Vagog 4l in amateurs handicap at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm) with GEX behind when brought down 5th and HARD HOLLOW tailed off when pulled up.
Selection: ARCTIC TEAL

AYR

Selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Fisherman's Croft.
1.00 Gold Options.
1.30 Midland Glenn.
2.00 Tartan Takeover.
2.30 Carrick Hill Lad.
3.00 One For The Pot.

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... N West (7) 86

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F 11 flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: good

12.30 CAPRINGTON NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,145: 2m) (7 runners)

1 00 COLONNA 10 (S) (Unique Racing Plc) C Beever 11-6 ..... G Bradley —
2 311111 FISHERMAN'S CROFT 19 (D,F,G) (Full Circle F Plc) N Tinkler 11-6 ..... G McCourt ● 98
3 S FISTFUL OF BUCKS 58 (T Dyer) C Weedon 11-6 ..... S Turner (3) 80
4 NORNHURST 46F (Mrs G Simpson) C Tinkler 11-5 ..... R Fahey —
5 6 RUSCAROFF 10 (Mrs J Morris) G Moore 11-5 ..... J Callaghan (7) 92
6 8 BOBBY ON THE BANK 39F (R McInnes) M O'Neill 10-7 ..... M Meagher —
7 340003 RIESENER 7 (V) (Mrs P Barker) Mrs P Barker 10-7 ..... C Hawkins 97

BETTING: 4-5 Fishermans Croft, 5-2 Fistful Of Bucks, 4-1 Ruscaroff, 6-1 Nornhurst, 8-1 Riesener, 10-1 Bobby On The Bank, 20-1 Colonna.

1988: CARBONATE 11-1 L Wyer (5-2 fav) M H Easterby 14 ran

1.0 TAIRLAW HANDICAP CHASE (£2,915: 2m) (8 runners)

1 24122-2 CENTRE ATTRACTION 26 (C,D,F,G,S) (N Mason Ltd) G Richards 10-12-0 ..... L O'Hara (5) 92
2 62125-U COOL STRIKE 28 (D,BF,G,S) (T Knowles) G Moore 8-11-12 ..... B Storey 86
3 1U1221- GOLD OPTIONS 187 (B,D,F,G,S) (J McCaghy) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-8 ..... A Merrigan 85
4 1/F231F- THE DEMON BARBER 354 (C,G,S) (R Cuppa) G Richards 7-11-8 ..... N Doughty 83
5 4/2211-0 MASNOON 4 (D,F,G,S) (J Eyre) Denys Smith 8-11-5 ..... Mr P Holliman 98
6 04/424- ALLTEN GLAZED 316 (CD,G,S) (Mrs W Widdall) M Naughton 12-11-2 ..... G McCourt ● 98
7 3-P4343 TACTICO 25 (D,F,G,S) (I Delgleish) W Fairgrieve 7-10-7 ..... G Bradley 93
8 28221-3 BROWNHILL LASS 28 (CD,S) (A Paton) R Goldie 6-10-8 ..... G Harker 91

BETTING: 15-8 Centre Attraction, 11-4 Cool Strike, 11-2 The Demon Barber, 8-1 Tactico, 8-1 Gold Options, 10-1 Allten Glazed, 12-1 Masnoon, 14-1 others.

1988: TRESIDDER 6-11-0 Ger Lyons (11-10 fav) M W Easterby 3 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
C Tinkler	5	14	35.7
G Moore	21	76	27.6
G Richards	57	234	24.4
N Tinkler	6	28	23.1
M H Easterby	14	65	21.5
B Wilkinson	4	19	21.1

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
G McCourt	9	25	36.0
N Doughty	27	127	21.3
G Bradley	5	33	18.2
S Turner	7	45	15.6
A Merrigan	6	40	15.0
R Morley	4	27	14.8

(Not including yesterday's results)

THE TIMES RACING SERVICE
Live commentary and classified results
Call 0898 500 123
Mandarin's Form Guide and rapid results
Call 0898 100 123
Calls cost 25p (off peak) and 38p (standard & peak) per minute inc VAT

1.30 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,272: 2m 6f) (20 runners)

1 113/30-6 VOYANT 35 (D,G,S) (T Wragg) J Mackie 10-11-10 ..... S J O'Neill 82
2 411410- INSTANT TAN 277 (S) (J Poynton) J O'Neill 8-11-6 ..... S Supple (3) 85
3 2119- DUTCH CALL 276 (S) (J Devey) J O'Neill 8-11-4 ..... D McCourt 95
4 4344/0 SHELBOURNE 29 (C,G) (A Dawson) J Haldane 7-10-9 ..... N Storey —
5 35P-1P6 FIEFDOM 21 (F,G,S) (C Clark) W Storey 5-10-8 ..... A Carroll 88
6 3-51111 MIDLAND GLENN 21 (F,G) (Mrs A Eyre) J Eyre 5-10-6 ..... Mr P McMahon ● 93
7 36-1434 KIRSTY'S BOY 82 (G,S) (Mrs K McClelland) J S Wilson 5-10-7 ..... S Fahey 90
8 1-60 WHAT ABOUT ME 98 (S) (Mrs S Walts) Mrs S Bramall 6-10-5 ..... J O'Gorman (3) 83
9 3/40611- THREEPLAND 337 (F,G,S) (A MacDonald) R Fisher 6-10-0 ..... R Hodge (7) 86
10 13914-5 MORE DISTINCT 36 (C,G,S) (Yorkshire Racing Club) J Jefferson 5-10-0 ..... R Madley 82
11 21/512- SMITHONIAN 343 (G,S) (G Smyth) Mrs G Reveley 0-10-0 ..... D Harker 88
12 1/6119-6 HOME TO ROOST 29 (G,S) (F Jestin) F Jestin 8-10-0 ..... N Leach (7) 86
13 4/160P-1 FLODDEN FIELD 73 (F,S) (A Taylor) B Wilkinson 6-10-0 ..... J Callaghan (7) 80
14 PP220/ SONNY ONE SHINE 1023 (C,S) (A Munro Ltd) R Allan 5-10-0 ..... S Keightley —
15 3233-51 TREBONKERS 5 (F,S) (Mrs C Richards) J B Wilson 5-10-0 (4ex) ..... S Turner (3) 82
16 322126- CANDLEBRIGHT 241 (C,S) (Mrs D Whitaker) G Richards 5-10-0 ..... Mr R Hale (7) 79
17 41046-0 BANTEL BUCCANEER 28 (C,S) (B Brandon) J Oliver 7-10-0 ..... T Reed 85
18 164040- DUBALEA 340 (D,F,G) (Mrs N Fraser) J Haldane 6-10-0 ..... N Doughty 86
19 12U0-42 BROMPTON ROAD 88 (BF,G) (J Percy) D Moffatt 8-10-0 ..... P Hartis (3) 72
20 3-F1605 BILLY TOBIN 82 (F) (J Goldie) S Payne 0-10-0 ..... C Hawkins 88

Long handicap: Threepland 9-10, More Distinct 9-8, Smithonian 9-5, Home To Roost 9-4, Flodden Field 9-1, Sonny One Shine 9-1, Trebonkers 9-1, Candlebright 8-11, Bantel Buccaneer 8-10, Dubalea 8-10, Brompton Road 8-8, Billy Tobin 6-3.

BETTING: 5-4 Midland Glenn, 4-1 Voyant, 5-1 Dutch Call, 5-1 Kirsty's Boy, 10-1 More Distinct, 12-1 Fieldom, Threepland, 14-1 Flodden Field, 16-1 others.

1988: BLAZING WALKER 4-11-11 A Merrigan (9-4 fav) W A Stephenson 8 ran

2.0 MELLERAY'S BELLE CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£3,028: 3m 3f 40yd) (9 runners)

1 111-1FF SIR JEST 42 (F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 11-11-10 ..... A Merrigan ● 99
2 2P111-1 TARTAN TAKEOVER 26 (C,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill) G Richards 7-11-1 ..... D McCourt 98
3 131BF-6 PAMPERING 23 (S) (Mrs J Brockbank) J Brockbank 8-10-6 ..... S J O'Neill 93
4 4634-35 BRANDY HAMBRO 23 (C,S) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 8-10-2 ..... S Storey 90
5 41123F- BLUFF KNOLL 229 (F,G,S) (R Brewis) R Brewis 5-10-1 ..... D Harker 91
6 5/00221- SANREN 273 (B,F,G,S) (F Bellerd) M H Easterby 7-10-1 ..... R Morley 95
7 P033-23 POLAR NOMAD 30 (BF,F,S) (J Stoddart Ltd) W A Stephenson 6-10-0 ..... J O'Gorman (3) 98
8 P21B-51 ABDICATOR 38 (F,S) (D Greig) J Oliver 8-10-0 ..... T Reed 75
9 5/0U1-P PADDY HAYTON 26 (F,G) (Mrs M Warse) S Leadbetter 8-10-0 ..... C Hawkins 74

Long handicap: Abdicator 8-11, Paddy Hayton 8-6.

BETTING: 9-4 Tartan Takeover, 7-2 Sir Jest, 5-1 Polar Nomad, 6-1 Sanren, 6-1 Bluff Knoll, Brandy Hambro, 10-1 Abdicator, 16-1 others.

1988: RINUS 7-10-12 N Doughty (3-1 fav) G Richards 8 ran

2.30 BENNAN NOVICES CHASE (£2,485: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 2111-11 CARRICK HILL LAD 24 (C,S) (A Pickett) G Richards 6-11-6 ..... N Doughty ● 99
2 4F-F321 KAMSEL 4 (F,G) (Mrs A Page) W A Stephenson 6-11-2 ..... A Merrigan 86
3 004443- KRISTENSON 238 (F,G,S) (S Marsh) R Fisher 12-10-12 ..... G Bradley 65
4 111/34- LAST GRAIN 347 (G,S) (Lightbody Of Hamilton Ltd) J S Wilson 7-10-12 ..... G McCourt —
5 4-06 MAJESTIC RIDE 33 (T Summerfield) J Oliver 5-10-12 ..... T Reed —
6 3-34F50 STAN'S FOLLY 22 (J Golding) S Payne 5-10-12 ..... J K Kissane 74
7 123F-63 VIKING ROCKET 28 (S) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 8-10-7 ..... S Storey —

BETTING: 4-6 Carrick Hill Lad, 9-2 Kamsel, 9-1 Viking Rocket, 10-1 Kristenson, 12-1 Last Grain, 16-1 Majestic Ride, 25-1 Stan's Folly.

1988: THE DEMON BARBER 5-10-12 N Doughty (4-9 fav) G Richards 6 ran

3.0 LAURIESTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,232: 2m) (16 runners)

1 3121 HOGMANAY 5 (D,F,G) (Full Circle F Plc) N Tinkler 4-11-11 ..... G McCourt 98
2 6-212 KINGS QUEST 81 (D,BF,F) (A McLuckie) J O'Neill 4-11-6 ..... R Supple (3) 88
3 005-210 MAGIC SOLDIER 27 (D,G) (Mrs S McKinney) G Richards 4-11-2 ..... N Doughty 94
4 4/302-P5 PRINCIPAL 35 (W Farrell) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-2 ..... S Storey 93
5 20-4418 ALISTAIRS GIRL 21 (CD,S) (Mrs P Pratt) W Reed 6-10-13 ..... T Reed 98
6 4-P036F FUNNY PATH 17 (D Cooper) J S Wilson 4-10-12 ..... G Bradley 81
7 000-232 BARNABY BENZ 7 (BF) (T Bennett Group) M H Easterby 5-10-10 ..... R Morley 92
8 065-2 ONE FOR THE POT 28 (K Wheldon) Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-9 ..... S Turner (3) 96
9 0604-4 FURNACE MILL 35 (B Morton) A Stringer 4-10-7 ..... P Hartis (3) 98
10 P JANE'S BRAVE BOY 22 (Mrs J McFadyen-Murray) T Craig 7-10-6 ..... C Hawkins —
11 2F36 TAP DANCING 10 (C Cleary) M O'Neill 3-10-5 ..... M Meagher 96
12 000/0 SLIP DANCER 28 (A Munro Ltd) R Allan 5-10-5 ..... S Keightley —
15 20-P060 JAAEZ 10 (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 5-10-3 ..... J O'Gorman (3) ● 98
14 000-P WINTER STORM 70 (B Brandon) J Oliver 4-10-2 ..... G Thomson (7) —
15 0006- ARCTICFLOW 15F (N De Savary) Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-0 ..... N Smith (7) 95
16 03-U000 JOCK'S PERIL 28 (A Green) W Fairgrieve 4-10-0 ..... J Hansen —

Long handicap: Arcticflow 9-12, Jock's Peril 9-12.

BETTING: 3-1 Barnaby Benz, 7-2 One For The Pot, 6-1 Kings Quest, 5-1 Magic Soldier, 8-1 Tap Dancing, Hogmany, 10-1 Furnace Mill, Principal, 12-1 Alistairs Girl, 14-1 others.

1988: SWEET CITY 3-10-13 J Hansen (4-5 fav) G Richards 6

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Bodyline century for 007

Three famous writers put their creations in to bat. Simon Barnes tells tales of centuries in three distinctive literary voices

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID SMITH

Fleming: his secret agent and all-rounder, James Bond, bowled his maiden over with his batting at No. 7

IAN FLEMING

The crack of the weapon striking home filled the room. The sound was absorbed by the walls of the windowless building that had been constructed on the Schloss-Mockenbecker principle. James Bond walked back along the Hi-Bounce surface and commented: "This one seems just about perfect, Fearnley."

The armourer snorted. "Come back and tell me after you've been in the middle with it, sir."

But Bond was pleased with his new weapon. It was a twin-scooped jumbo weighing not less than four pounds, and with just the pick-up he liked. For the first time since the loss of his trusty old equalizer on his most recent assignment in the Caribbean, he felt content. And he would need to use it soon enough!

As he walked away from the indoor net, part of that anonymous cluster of buildings near Regents Park, his mind went back to the previous day. He had been faced with a pile of routine work when the red telephone in the players' dressing-room had splintered the silence. "M wants you," the chief of staff had said urgently.

M was a man whose true function was known only to a handful of people in England. Outwardly, he seemed an ordinary businessman. But in reality he was chairman of the selectors, who went into battle a dozen times a season with the pick of England's men. He used them as live chessmen, and spent them brutally when he had to. He would never have dreamed of telling Bond that he, Bond, was the best man he possessed.

M had been in one of his reflective moods. "What do you think England needs?" he asked abruptly as Bond entered the room.

Bond looked into that weather-beaten face he knew so well, and which held so much of his loyalty. "Runs in the middle order, sir," he replied.

M flung his matchbox across the desk. "Absolutely correct, Seven." M would not have considered addressing Bond during the hours of play by anything other than his number in the batting order. "And this is where you come in. I am giving you a licence to slog."

Bond reflected on this as he sat in the England dressing-room the following day. The responsibility! But it was right. England had lacked solidity in the middle order ever since Four had disappeared in the Dirty Half Mile in Pakistan. There was a scent of tension in his nostril: the lure of the big pot, the ever-present taste for the big gamble. He would do it, by God!

He stripped, gave himself a very hot and then an ice-cold shower. He washed his hair with Head 'n' Shoulders, that prince of shampoos. He dressed in white trousers, and a white Sea Island cotton shirt. He glanced at himself in the mirror: a pair of grey-blue eyes looked quizzically back at him, that rebellious comma of hair falling an inch above the right eyebrow. He brushed it back impatiently. He smiled at some memory and walked out of the dressing-room on to the players' balcony. It was 10 in the morning, an hour before play began.

He glanced across to the opposition players' balcony. A girl stared levelly back at him. She was very beautiful, in a devil-may-care kind of way.

She was clad in a simple white bikini. Her dark hair was thrust back from her face, her eyes, cool and dark, assessed him. She sat straddling a chair, her chin on her arms. The impudent thrust of her proud breasts flayed at Bond's senses.

"Guess you're the middle-order man," she said flatly, a hint of Australian in her voice. There was arrogance in the set of her head, in the cool shrug of her shoulders.

Bond was amused. He lit a cigarette, of the kind that Morlands of Grosvenor made specially for him, with three gold rings, and said: "And you're the Australian fast bowler."

She didn't smile. "I travel with Denno, yeah."

God, thought Bond, what a life! But something about the girl told him she was beyond that. Her eyes said: don't hurry me. All things are possible between us.

"Do you have a name?" Bond asked.

"Shirleen Sleepwell." Her eyes held a touch of defiance.

"Nice name. I like it."

"I'll tell Denno you said so. He'll be honoured."

To hell with her! He, Bond, had work to do. He returned to the dressing-room and rang room service.

"Get me a double portion of scrambled eggs, a pint of Jack Daniel's bourbon and plenty of ice."

"Right away, sir."

Bond consumed his breakfast and felt the excitement ball up inside him. This was the big play! Thank God he would soon be out in the middle.

He went to toss up with the opposition captain, won and chose to bat. The Australian offered his hand. The handshake was firm and dry. Bond smiled amiably and emptily back. He would continue to play the toothless tiger.

He returned to the dressing-room and prepared himself for the battle. He watched the cricket until he was needed. He checked that the Rolex was on his wrist and finally closed his locker. He plucked a hair painfully from his head, and with a dab of saliva stuck it across the door. He had done all he could. Now it was down to the gods. He hoped they were on his side. With the new weapon in his hand, he stepped out to do battle.

He stood at the wicket and looked across at the man he knew he would have to oppose: Denno. Denno gave the impression of being a little larger than life. He stood over six feet tall. He had an enormous head, big as a football, capped with a tangle of black curls. The left eye was not a perfect match with its fellow. The arms, preternaturally long, hung to the level of his knees. He wore a large and astonishingly hairy moustache.

The general effect was flamboyant: like a cheap gigolo. Bond was put in mind of a cartoon braggart: a jeering loud-mouthed vulgarian. "G'day, Jim," Denno said. "Are you ready for a little fun?"

"Yes," said Bond. "I'd like that very much."

"I hope you've made your will," Denno said. He retreated into the distance, the red weapon of the ball in his hand.

Bond took guard. There was something cold and dangerous in his face as Denno turned and began to run towards him. It was a tricky, almost a vicious, pitch he had to play on. The odds were stacked against him. To hell with it! It was now or never.

Denno ran in and fired the ball at Bond. It was a full length and rose abruptly to strike Bond in the rib-cage. What was happening? Get up, you bastard! The pain of the impact seemed to have frozen his responses. Somehow, he scrambled to his feet. He wasn't dead yet!

"Like 'em round about there, Jim?" Denno's sneering voice penetrated his consciousness. He ignored it, concentrated only on dodging the next ball. Hit it. Hit it with anything. If not, he was a dead duck!

The second ball came, again on a length. Bond lunged blindly at it, missed, and felt a searing pain in his shoulder. Now he was done for! Not enough strength left to raise a bat! How the hell had he got mixed up with all this? He turned with infinite weariness to face the third ball.

A half-volley! Bond surged gratefully into the drive — no, by God! A yorker! The ball struck him full on the foot, again bringing him to the ground. Denno followed the ball down the pitch. There was no stuffing left in Bond for another shouting match. He climbed the infinite distance to his feet. Counter-attack. That was his only hope!

Suddenly, nothing mattered. Suddenly, the only thing that Bond wanted was to give this hairy ape the lesson of his life. The next ball was short. It was outside leg: an easy hook. Bond moved instinctively into position. Hell! It was coming straight for his head. Only one thing for it! With blind, animal desperation, Bond went through with his hook. There was a sweet, brief moment of contact and he knew the ball was going to clear the boundary for six. That was more like it!

The second ball was shorter, faster. Bond swung again. God! Another six! Close to delirium, Bond played on towards a bloody, beckoning vortex.

Bond left the pitch, a grey-faced, lunging automaton. Somehow he had done it. A century before lunch for Number Seven. Bond felt no triumph, only a great, soul-wearying exhaustion.

He walked into the pavilion. He stripped naked and walked, almost fell, into the shower. The water felt like summer rain on his back. There was a small, curiously hesitant knock on the door of the shower room.

"Who's there?" asked Bond.

"It's me — Shirleen Sleepwell. I just wondered if you had all you need."

"Come in, Shirleen, and close the door behind you."

She entered. She wore nothing now. "Look here, you Bond person —."

His mouth came ruthlessly down over hers.

J.R.R. TOLKIEN

This is the tale of Gatti the Dwarf and Lubo the Elf, which was told in the Latter Days whenever the hairy-toed race of Journos gathered. It was a tale told with many a merry laugh and many a tankard of goodly ale. It tells also of Bothorn, son of Bothogorn, and of the mighty wizard, Brears the Grey.

It began in the light of a fair morning, when Brears, the Grey Batsman, went out to have colloquy with the Enemy. "Brears the Grey knows all things," said Lubo, the golden-haired. "But my heart likes not his task this morn."

"Why did he go, then?" piped up Knotty.

"Peace, Halfling," said Bothorn. "You speak of what you cannot understand."

"Bah!" said Gatti, swinging his axe. "More Elvish magic, I'll warrant. Will we never hear the end of it?"

Lubo was on his feet even as the words left his lips. "I have not yet heard the Dwarfs speak, save to whinge. Will you and your kind whinge on till the Enemy wins as he likes?"

"I have not heard that the Elves ever did much, save to waft airily outside the off stump!"

"Peace! And peace again, I say!" said Bothorn. "The match is between us and the Enemy. Keep your weapons sharp for that encounter."

"It is well spoken, Bothorn son of Bothogorn," said Lubo. "Gatti, good Dwarf, give me your hand. A pledge on it: we shall stand one alongside the other, and fight the Enemy as comrades."

"Lubo, I accept your hand. None shall say that Dwarf fled while Elf stood fast."

The door was flung open, and Brears the Grey entered the room. The Company read many things in the face of the wizard. Bothorn, who knew him best, saw a strange light in his deep eyes. "Speak, Brears," he said. "For I would know what your looks betide."

"I see good, and I see evil," replied the wizard. "To start with, good tidings: I won the toss."

"You are a great wizard!" said Gatti.

"Maybe so, good Dwarf, but there was nothing of wizardry in this. Know you not I am sworn to use no magic in the toss? But win I did, and to bat, friends, to bat."

"But I see grimness in your purposes, O Wise One," said Lubo. "And this mislikes me greatly."

"Ah, how often is it said, you cannot hide jewels from a Dwarf, nor secrets from an Elf?" said Brears. "But I pray you, leave my secret with me a while."

"Wise One," said Lubo. "I believe the good tidings are for the Free Folk, in their match against the Enemy. The evil tidings are for yourself alone."

"Pass me my helm, Lubo Gower, my excellent Elf, and turn your eyes elsewhere. I go to bat. But I must pass on such tidings as I can ere do so. Marsh Hal, the Balrog, has passed a fitness test this morning and will bowl."

"But what's a Balrog?" asked little Knotty, who had been keeping quiet and hoping not to be noticed.

"Aye, the little race of Wickies has had little to do with Balrogs," said Brears. "But against my will, I fear they shall know more, and that soon. Enough! I got to battle."

"And I with you!" cried Zap, the mighty man of the forbidden land at the foot of the Dark Continent. "Newlands!"

With that, Brears and Zap left them, to face the might of this team of Orcs, Goblins and all the worst folk that the Enemy could call on. The light grew very dark, and the learned men of lore consulted their instruments but permitted the battle to start. And in the darkening gloom the Enemy laid waste before them. One mighty blow felled the giant Zap and a moment later Brears met his nemesis as Marsh Hal, the mighty Balrog, struck.

This left Lubo and Gatti standing alone to defy the Enemy. "My heart grows faint within me," said Knotty back in the dressing-room. He turned to Bothorn, and asked: "Can you not go to their aid?"

"Nay, Halfling. Not till the bat that was broken has been mended. That will not be until I do battle on the field of Heading Lee, for thus it is written. It is on the Dwarf and the Elf that our hopes must rest."

Gatti stood at the crease with his stout legs apart. "This is more to my liking!" he said. "My heart rises as battle approaches. A few goodly blows, and I shall feel my blood stir anew."

"Maybe so, for you are a Dwarf, and Dwarfs are strange folk," said Lubo. "But I have my wand, and do not doubt it can do some damage to the Enemy."

"My axe will do for me. The blade yearns for the taste of leather once again. To battle, Lubo the Elf."

"To battle, Gatti the Dwarf."

The Enemy closed in. Gatti raised his axe. "Enfield! Enfield!" he cried. And he set about him like a man scything corn.

At the other end, Lubo brandished his Elven wand. "Leicester!" he said. The ball whistled towards him, yet Lubo dispatched it with one flick of his slim wrists.

"What magic is this?" called Gatti.

"This is the Elvish way. Do you like it, Master Gatti?"

"Very much," Gatti replied. "All that does damage to the Enemy makes my heart sing within me."

"Then to battle once again, good Friend!"

"To battle, Elf and Friend!"

The sky was utterly dark, and the stillness of the heavy air told of storms. Yet across the pitch the watchers in the dressing-room saw the ill-matched pair lay waste before them. Even the Balrog himself was powerless against the Dwarfish axe, and the Elven wand. The balls fell thick as rain among them, but always the Dwarf and the Elf fended them off, or dispatched them as they would in the dark tempest of cricket.

The day ended. "Well, Master Lubo, I have 112," said Gatti.

"You have passed my count by one," Lubo replied. "But I do not grudge it you, so glad am I to have fought alongside."

"The way you waft your wand ever baffles me, to speak truth," Gatti said. "But I would not have it otherwise. I shall not forget this day."

"Friend Gatti, we have won more than a battle. We have won a friendship. May the Dwarfs and the Elves from henceforth seek conflict against the Enemy alone — never more against each other."

"It shall be so," said Gatti. "Now let us to the victory feast, and ale, cheese, and Branston."

"Good Gatti, spare me that," said the Elf. "But I'll gladly accompany you. We need not share all things. You to your Branston, I'll toast our friendship in the fairy nectar of Bollinger."

"So be it!" cried Gatti. "No matter what we sup, victory and friendship are ours for ever." And ever did it prove thus, as the hairy-toed race of Journos have reported over their ale many a long year since.

Tolkien: from the Lord of the Rings man to the lord of the square

MARK TWAIN

Twain: Huck makes his mark

You don't know about me, without you have read *Wisden*, but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr Graeme Wright, and he told the truth, mainly. Anyway, when it was all through, he called me one of them Wisden Cricketers of the Year, which is a mighty fine thing to be. Folks tell you all manner of wonderful cricketers been Wisden Cricketers of the Year, but I don't know. I don't take no stock in dead people.

Now the way the book winds up is, how in one season I changed from being kind of wild and how the game of cricket has sort of sivilized me. I reckon that's piling it on, maybe. I don't know nothing about sivilizing, because the people at the cricket grounds are so dismal regular and decent I just decide to light out some days. But mostly, as I say, Mr Wright is telling the truth. That season I did learn to be a more considerable cricketer, and some days I felt powerful sivilized. It ain't quite true it happened in one season, though. Mostly I reckon it happened in one match, and here's the story of it.

Well, at the beginning of the game, the captain asked if I mind batting number five, and I say, no, I ain't particular. I aim to bat any time, and go out there and hit the ball middling hard. Three, four, five, it don't signify. A body's got to bat sometime. So the game starts without me, and I got to lying out in the changing-room smoking away, and I was powerful lazy and comfortable. Then our batsmen start getting out, so I had to start getting in. It were the waste of a good pipe, but no matter. I druther be batting than smoking at the end of it, so I went out batting.

It warnt like what I expected, though. Those bowlers out there seemed to have something, like it was agin me personal. It got very tiresome and lonesome out there. I felt so lonesome I most wished I was dead. Then comes one ball that near shaved my head, and I reckon it *would* a shaved my head, if I ain't moved it some. Well that ball, it cut one of my breaths in two, and I got only half, and the short half, too.

Batting with me was our captain, but that warnt no good, I could see. Soon as I saw him hopping around and cussing, I knowed that. I would a talked to him and shared some of my troubles, but he had troubles enough all on his own. If he couldn't help his own self, he warnt going to help me, and pretty sooo he got out. That's the way it is, I reckon, for the hopping and swearing folk.

Well, then there was nobody out there but me, and all them opposing team, and I got so downhearted and scared, I wished I had some company. And soon as I wishes it, I saw ole Jim as he clumb out of the pavilion, and comes out on to the field to be my partner. I bet I was right pleased to see him, and right surprised, too, I can tell you. I say "Hello, Jim," and walked down the pitch to talk.

He looked at me kind of wild, and said: "What's de bowlin" like heah?"

"Never mind the bowling, Jim. What's *you* doing here?" He looked pretty uneasy, and didn't say nothing for a minute. Then he says: "Dey's reasons. But you wouldn't tell ou me ef I uz to tell you, would you, Huck?"

"Blamed if I would, Jim."

"Well, I b'lieve you, Huck. I done promoted myself to number six. Didn't tell no one. I just run off into the middle, so's I can act like a batsman."

"What you done this for, Jim?"

"It uz this way. I uz passing by the secretary'a office, thinking, well, they got a po reputation, but they awluz treats Jim pooty good. But I noticed there was a Welshman roun these parts lately, en I begin to git a little oneasy. So I git to lis'n at de do," and dat's when I hear things. I niver thought they'd do it, and dat's when I hear things. I niver thought they'd do it, and dat's de truth. They'm gwyne to sell Jim to Glamorgan! Well, I lit out mighty quick, and I git to do some thinking. I heared dat Middlesex is looking for an all-rounder, and dat dey look at me, but dey reckon I never git no chance to bat, so maybe I ain't no all-rounder. So I comes out today, to bat number six, and I reckon if I can git a fifty, they won't send me to Glamorgan, but I kin git by myself to Middlesex as a free cricketer."

Well, I resolves to help Jim all I could. There was a tolerable long piece of work to be done, but being with Jim, it was better than being lonesome. Besides, work's a funny thing. Sometimes by yourself, work looks most impossible, and like to take np all day, and maybe the next day, too. But when you get to working with somebody, and when you get to working *for* some body, and that body is asking your help, well, that effort don't signify. You just get to shoveling that ball away, and the work don't seem like nothing.

I reckon it's the same when you is *being* helped. Leastways, when I starts shoveling the ball, Jim leaves off being so fearful, and *he* starts shoveling the ball. Soon the day was all shoveling and smiting, and the scoreboard just tickering round, like it was doing it all by itself. The runs jist come. It warnt no problem. We jist scored them.

Well, it got to being lunch, and it got to being tea, and it got to being the end of the day, and there was Jim and me. It was a mighty lot of shoveling, I can tell you. Jim and me, we both had centuries, and I most had two. Jim went to Middlesex, to be an all-rounder and a free man and all. I got to being a Wisden Cricketer of the Year, like I says. It was as much Jim's doing as mine, hut he ain't complaining, and I guess I ain't neither. But I reckon I got to light out for Australia ahead of the rest. The Test match selectors at Lord's, they'm going to adopt me and sivilize me and I can't stand it. I been there before.

Extracts from *A La Recherche du Cricket Perdu*, by Simon Barnes, published by Macmillan (£7.99).

TRAVEL

At home and abroad where the Argonauts once sailed

Clovis Keath explores the Pelion peninsula, far away from the Greece of disco-beat and chips with everything

At the next taverna table, a raffish group of fishermen lounged around a skittle-alley line-up of beer bottles. Gold teeth glittered in wolfish grins. They had a casual glamour about them, and a peacock swagger as they left with nightfall in their arc-lit boats to fish out on the horizon under a sliver of moon.

It was the archetypal vision of Greece. Working fishing boats lined the wide waterfront, on a calm sea in the soft evening light, counterpointed by the distant capes and islands. Swallows flew arabesques around the brilliance of the sunset and the warm air was scented with gardenias. It was light years away from the disco-beat and moussaka and chips or spurious folksiness of too many Greek resorts.

The Pelion peninsula curves down from the busy town of Vólos like a bent arm that has just elbowed away the Sporades islands but avoided the northern tip of Evvoia. It is a land of pretty villages clinging to the sea's edge or nestling on hillsides, and separated by deciduous forests or orchards of laden fruit trees. We encountered cherry pickers in the countryside who filled our hands with sweet, sun-warmed fruit.

Jason and the Argonauts set sail for the Golden Fleece from an ancient city near Vólos, and the Argo was built of Pelion timber. Ancient folk saw the region as a place of mystery, as remote as the stronghold of the gods on Mount Olympus. They peopled it with fantastic creatures like the Lapiths and centaurs, and the giants who had the temerity to pile Mount Ossa oo to Pelion in an attempt to reach the Olympic heights of the gods themselves. There are still few roads, and the locals often travel on horseback.

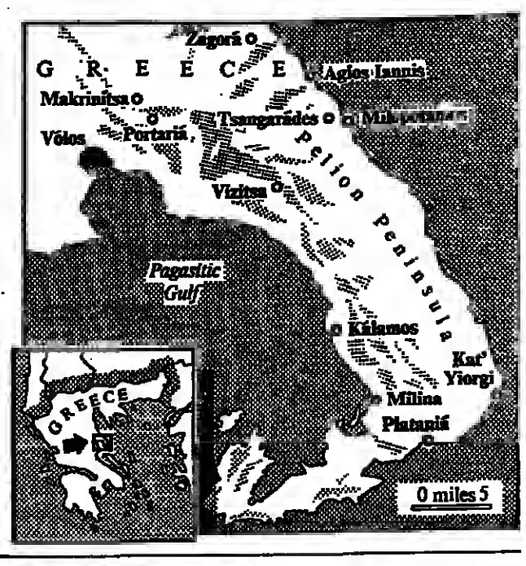
The hinterland of Pelion was not seriously settled until the Ottoman occupation, when it was opened up for exploitation. The villages grew and prospered, and mansions were constructed by the rich, pro-Turkish farmers, silk-growers and other artisans, but these had to be fortified against the bandits and freedom fighters who swept down to pillage from mountain hide-outs. A combination of luxurious home and tough fortress, these houses still dominate many villages, and some have been restored by the Greek Tourist Board as rather splendid guest houses. I stayed a night at the Xiradaki House at Makrinitsa, impressed by the spacious rooms and simple decor, and the surprisingly generous breakfast served on a flower-decked terrace high above a panorama of Vólos.

The proximity of Vólos makes the peninsula a local resort, with the sandy beach of Agios Iannis as the most developed favourite. But the Vólos people seem to prefer a rustic and homely atmosphere. Like the cool hill villages of Makrinitsa and Zagorá, Tsangarádes and Portariá, where you can dine out on café terraces with stunning views; or simple fishing villages such as Plataniá, Kat' Yiorgi or Kálamos, where fresh fish is guaranteed. There are plenty of good beaches too.

My main base was in Milina, in one of the dozen or so properties in the area managed by Houses of Pelion. Set in a lovely garden at the back of the village, it was charming in every respect except one: a total lack of privacy. We were a twosome, and I discovered that the more secluded houses were for larger groups. Exploring the area was a delight and most days ended back at Milina's picturesque waterfront where we cautiously sipped tiny glasses of tsipouro, the rougher, tougher, big brother of ouzo, while waiting for a supper of freshly cooked langoustines, or red mullet.

TRAVEL NOTES

- Prices for Houses of Pelion range from £58 to £119 per person per week, depending on accommodation. Information: 0225 83 5954/096 321 457.
- Prices for double room in the Traditional Houses Scheme of the National Tourist Organization of Greece, with breakfast, are from around £22 per night without bath (high season). Information: Greek Tourist Board 01-734 5997.



Italy's exuberant invaders

Martin Cropper enjoys the stimulating conflict of cultures in the northern bilingual outpost of the Alto-Adige

Hang a left off the Verona-Brennero highway south of Rovereto and you start to climb the pass over which, 550 years ago, the Venetians anticipated Herzog's epic film *Fitzcarraldo* by lugging a flotilla on log rollers. After three months they dropped at last to the north shore of Lake Garda, an immense inland fiord whose glassy dark waters are composed entirely of molten red-wine bottles — the ultimate Common Market lake. Today's invaders are: bronzed Vikings damaging the eye with the fizzing tints of their Bermuda shorts; topless Viqueens whose umber breasts and platioum hair illustrate the evolutionary urge towards the photographic negative; and the kiwi fruit (it's terrifically modern in Trentino).

On a summer's evening, when one of the lake's 33 winds has been switched on, regular as a sundial, the Teutoo holidaymakers congregate to fall off surfboards. Their distant sails mimic designer shark-decoys in the swooning daylight, while 100 feet up a plum-black cliff a 15th-century watchtower clicks ioto floodlit life. Here in Riva del Garda, the north-western corner of Europe's third largest lake and the last outpost of Mediterranean climate before the Alps, Thomas Mann wrote his archetypal fantasy of the North's lust for the South, *Tonio Kröger*, and here Goethe was "inspired" to compose that other A level penance, *Iphigenia*. Down the road in Torbole there is a monument to him; on the eastern shore he was arrested on suspicion of being an Austrian spy. These are for the tourists: you have to go north to Alto-Adige (known to its inhabitants, confusingly, as Südtirol) to sample the full bilingual phenomenon. To the Trentonese, Rome is an official mailbag, Florence and Naples are postcards from abroad.

Ruled successively by the Scaligeri of Verona, the Viscooti from Milan, the Venetians and the Austrians, Trentino seceded to Italy in 1919 but remains as autonomous as Sicily. In a way more comprehensible to Scots than to Devonians, regional *amour propre* is all.

The lower Adige valley is a ragged glacial scoop between scarred limestone anticlines that look deeply disturbed, like Piranesi oo a bad night; a landscape so patently belligerent must incite human aggression. North of the spa of Comano Terme (its water is "good for skin diseases and also for getting pregnant") begins the ski-life zone of the Brenta Dolomites — mountains more assertively jagged, candidly over-emotional.

In the baking valley beside yet another glacial lake, the Hotel Regent's (*sic*) in Andalo is a temple to the work of Glynn Boyd Harte offering excellent local prosciutto, risotto with nettles, garlic-and-mushroom ravioli. Trentino's "specialist" red wine, Marzemino, advertised in *Don Giovanni*, is generally drunk too young when it's still a thing of aloes and ink. Local whites, made from Pinot Grigio or a Chardonnay/Traminer mix, are lightly *frizzante* and have more to say for themselves.

Elsewhere you can scoff the standard fare of speck, melt-in-the-mouth carpaccio, roast rabbit, quails that actually taste of meat, endless variations on the polenta theme, any amount of wild fungus. In the Dolomite Nature Reserve — shamelessly virgin land that has never known the kiss of acid rain, and where the brown bear is alleged to roam — visitors are restricted to picking a maximum of two kilos of mushrooms a day; there's also a limit of five wild flowers per aesthete *per diem*.

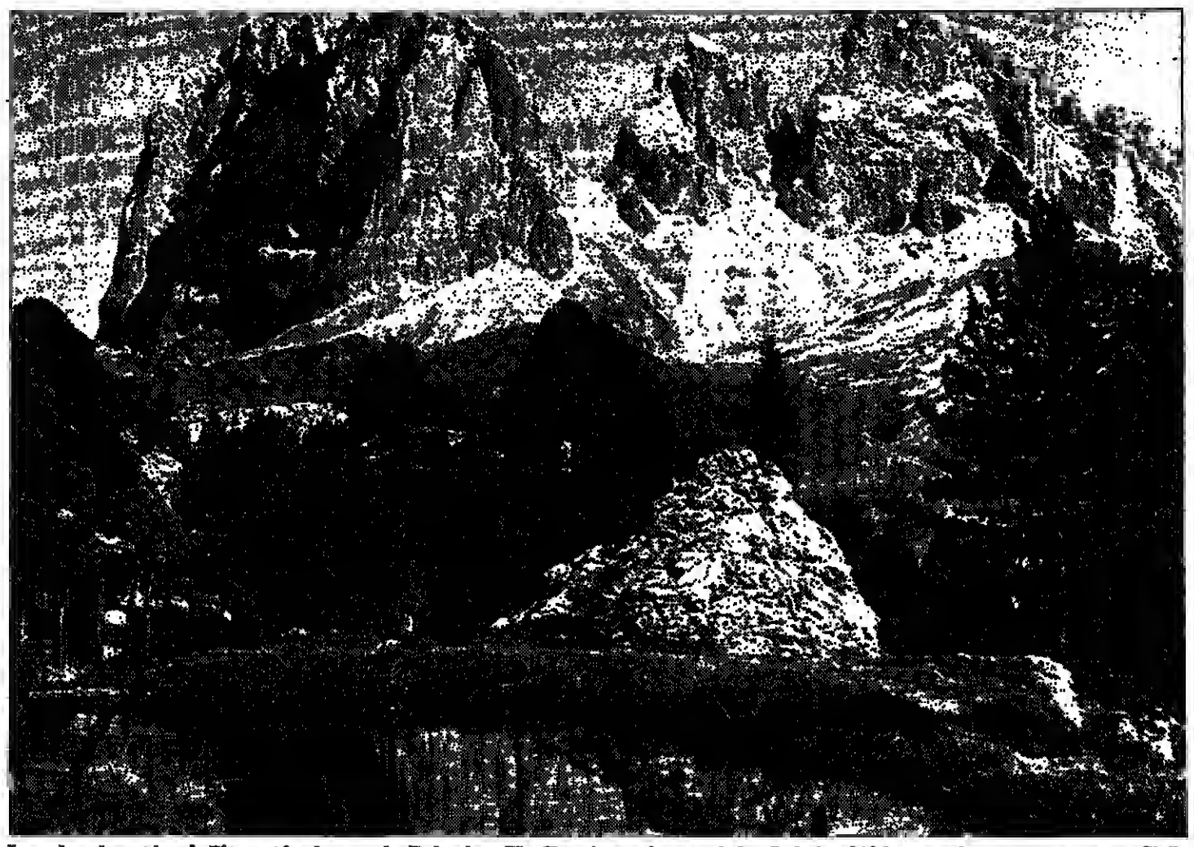
Keeping an eye open for the Flora Squad, we descend to Trento, cockpit of the Counter-Reformation. The cathedral square is presided over by a statue of Dante apparently hacked from solid verdigris; the Castello del Buoconsiglio is a confectioo of early medieval and late Venetian Gothic exuberantly adorned with Renaissance frescos. This was formerly the bishop's palace, and it is almost impossible to accept that one man required so much interior décor.

Dominating the valley between Trento and Rovereto, Castel Beseno is a victim of Mussolini's roof tax. The then owner responded by whipping off his roofs and letting snow and rain do their worst: an ancient castle but a modern ruin. The hamlet of Besenello clustering round its skirts has narrow streets and — tonight, with thunder growling over the Dolomites and geraniums scenting the air — gangs of firemen.

All up the castle approach the wiod frets at pathside rows of dishes flaring with molten wax. The darkened jousting ground is full of Schubert and spectators and all at once the battlements begin to spit magnesium, and catherine-wheels fizz and whirr and rockets scream up from the fat black towers. Little allowable by law can compete with watching millions of lire blown to hell in panchromatic riot, with theatrical white clouds boiling round the battlements and the occasional flaming cinder plunging into the crowd.

TRAVEL NOTES

- British Airways (01-897 4000) Heathrow to Milan Apex return, £175.
- The Club Hotel, La Vela, Via Strada Granda 1, Torbole Sul Garda (010 39 464 505 940). Single room from about £36 per night, double £57. Full board, per person, per day, about £52.
- Autostrada 12 to Trento.



Jagged peaks set in a belligerent landscape: the Dolomites. The Trentino region seceded to Italy in 1919 but remains as autonomous as Sicily

TRAVEL NEWS

Congress closures

Visitors to Moscow in recent days have been disappointed to find that Red Square and most of the Kremlin have been closed without warning, because of this month's historic meeting of the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies (*George Hill writes*).

The Kremlin is the USSR's equivalent of the Tower of London and Palace of Westminster rolled into one. Tours have been cancelled at short notice, and friendly but firm police have been turning visitors away.

The government's concerns about security may well cause visitors frustration during future sessions of the Congress, which meets twice a year for unpredictable periods of about 10 days.

No crackers this Christmas

Airports are urging Christmas travellers to leave their presents unwrapped and to minimize the number of electronic items which they carry. Electronic goods will be given particularly close attention, and passengers are also being asked not to carry Christmas crackers.

- Austravel is offering a special round-the-world fare of £699, using a combination of Britannia Airways charters and Cootinental Airlines scheduled flights. Departures are on March 28, April 2 or April 9, and return to the UK must be no later than June 30. Information: 01-494 1302.
- The Canadian charter-flight specialist ASAT is holding fares for summer 1990 at 1989 levels, for tickets bought by the end of this year. A typical London-Toronto return flight in May will cost £199 if booked before December 31. Information: 01-730 9396.

Philip Ray

ATO
Portrait of a Self-made City
PETER NEWBOLD
For a free copy of this enthralling and informative essay on Amsterdam, together with our brochure on individual holidays to this beautiful city, write to:
Time Off
Chester Close,
London SW1X 7BQ.
ABTA 58374

Francophile festivities

If you can't stand Christmas at home, go to Paris for champagne and oysters

Io England, in celebratioo of Christmas and New Year, they close the country for two weeks. In France, they open the place up, and it wasn't shut to start with. The English, like their pubs, look inwards. The French, like their cafés, look outwards.

London is worst hit. Oscar Wilde defined depressioo as "a wet Sunday oo the Cromwell Road". So what do you do about a fortnight of Sundays?

Yoo go to Paris. It is always best to lodge with a French family because they will know the form, but if you can't, then stay where the actioo is. Mostly this is in the 6th (possibly the 7th) or 8th *arrondissements*. These are the twin hearts of the Left and Right Banks and the heart of the hearts is the Place St Germain des Prés and the Champs Elysées. From either of these ceotres, most of festive or shop-till-you-drop Paris is a walk or a bus or a métro stop away.

Life happens in the streets here, and the shop windows, always a pleasure, are at their best in this season. Since you are going to be spending quite a bit of time on your feet, it may be helpful to have in mind possible pit stops.

Champagne is the festive drink, and you need to know where the good stuff is available by the glass. On the Left Bank there's the Deux Magots; the famous Lipp, opposite, always closes for the hols, but the equally famous Coupole is open every day of the year until 2am and serves quality fizz. On the Right Bank, coovenient fuelling points are Fouquet's on the Champs, the bar of the Relais Plaza oo the Avenue Montaigne — convenient for that last-minute peignoir from Dior over the road — and the inimitable Harry's New York Bar off the Rue de la Paix.

Shops for gifts: Hermès on the Faubourg St-Honoré for all things leather, the scarves and your diary refill (you do *have* an Hermès diary, don't you?); Roger & Gallet, just down the road, for soap, Le Nain Bleu, just up the road, for toys. For the best *foie gras*, the best food shop (and best window display) in the world, go to Fauchon oo the Place de la Madeleine. For more striking window skill, try the adjoining and competing big stores, Galeries Lafayette and Au Printemps behind the Opera. For those Oh-my-God-we've-forgotten-George gifts, the Drug Stores at the top and bottom of the Champs and at St-Germain are always open, for everything from matt black to white gold.

On Christmas Eve, some restaurants offer only seasonal fodder, champagne included, at prices to make your head spin. The classic meno starts, always, with oysters, goes on to *foie gras* (served with a Sauterne, ideally Château-d'Yquem), *boudin blanc* (a delicate sausage of chicken breast and cream), turkey (with a chestnot stuffing) or goose or game and the unavoidable but edible *bouche de Noël*, which has all the aesthetic appeal of a garden gnome. Other places offer a choice of special or regular menus, and still others make little seasonal gestures by including special dishes.

Next day, if you have the strength to return to your chosen restaurant (there is no Boxing Day and the Parisians will be back at work), you'll find it full again, with what look like the same people still pigging out. But you may choose to rest, visit museums (most are open, and you can eat well there) and generally get ready to do exactly the same thing on New Year's Eve. And that's about it — for a few days. Because then there's Twelfth Night, which is of course the Fête des Rois, and calls for the consumptioo of the delicious galettes, which of course must be accompanied by champagne . . .

Charles Hennessy

PARIS
HOTEL **** Relais Christine
3, rue Christine 75006 Paris
Tel: 33(1) 43 26 71 80
Telex: 202 606 F
In St Germain-des-Pres, le Relais Christine, a former 18th century cloister, is now a peaceful and charming hotel offering rooms, suites and duplex overlooking the garden or flowered courtyard. Exposed beams, antique furniture. Private garage.
HOTEL **** Pavillon de la Reine
28, place des Vosges 75003 Paris
Tel: 33(1) 42 77 96 40
Telex: 216 160 F
Le Pavillon de la Reine in Place des Vosges, in the heart of the Marais district welcomes you with the peacefulness that its 50 rooms, duplex and air conditioned suites overlooking the garden, or flowered courtyard offer. Antique furniture. Private garage.

Greece
In our opinion, the Pelion peninsular is one of the most beautiful unspoilt, verdant parts of Greece. To the best of our knowledge, Greek Sun Holidays is the only fully bonded tour operator with the Civil Aviation Authority (your money ù guaranteed) and member of ABTA who operates inclusive holidays to Pelion. We have 27 years experience of operating holidays to Greece and can offer you personal and efficient service. For our 52 page brochure featuring Pelion plus 15 other destinations within Greece please telephone (0732) 740317 (24 hrs).
Greek Sun Holidays.
ATOL 0011.
Oceanways Travel Services Ltd.
ABTA 46288 AITO

NOW'S THE TIME TO GIVE YOUR WIFE THE BOOT.
The perfect guide to an unforgettable vacation in Southern Italy.
Who: You and those you love (especially your wife).
Where: From Gatwick Airport, London, directly to Southern Italy.
When: Each and every day.
What to do: Simply enjoy all the comforts of a through flight via Naples to Bari, Catania or Palermo under the flag of a great company. Upon arrival in Italy, just settle into one of the exclusive hotels we reserved for you (and, eventually, your wife).
Now, unmistakably, you are in that unique boot-shaped country. Open your eyes to the wonderful nature. Open your heart to the masterpieces of art.
Don't forget to open your mouth in the presence of the richest cuisine in the world.
Important: After giving your wife the boot, look at her. She'll be grateful to you forever. To boot.
BARI
NAPLES
PALERMO
CATANIA
ATI A COMPANY OF THE ALITALIA GROUP
SICILIA
REGIONE CAMPANIA
REGIONE PUGLIA

TRAVEL

Patricia Davies went to Keystone, Colorado, where amateurs have a chance to learn the secrets of Olympic medallists Phil and Steve Mahre

Skiing with the masters

BOB WINSETT

Laughs all round: participants may follow the Mahres' courses in less than Olympic fashion, but tuition is intensive and the competitive spirit is strong. Video playbacks reveal stylistic errors

It was a *Ski Sunday* spectacular of a skid, lasting 50 yards and taking with it several bodies in a flurry of poles, hats, snow and oaths. Fran Choi's quest for speed was the cause. A middle-aged pharmacist from New Jersey by way of Korea, she was so ioteot oo clocking up a fast time oo the slalom course that she created mayhem when she belatedly applied the brakes.

Choi and the rest of us were coming towards the end of five days of intensive, but stimulating, instruction at one of the Mahre Training Ceotre courses run throughout the winter at the Keystone Resort in Colorado, 75 miles west of Denver. We were busy setting times to be used for handicapping prior to the hig race oo the last day, and Choi ended up handicapping herself with a broken thumb. No chance of a medal now, was the unworthy thought of the rest of the team, but we had reckooed without the skilful bandaging of Choi's orthopaedic surgeon husband and her own determination.

Cometh the race, cometh the woman, and Choi recorded one of our better times, enabling us to win, to everyooe's amazemeot and jealous cries of "Fix!", the gold medal and the coogratulatioos of the Mahre twins, Phil and Steve. It was their training methods we had been following in our own, it must be admitted, less than Olympic fashion. The Mahres won gold and silver at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo in 1984 and oow divide their time between the professional circuit and helping lesser talents to ski better.

There were occasions when bits of our technique undoubtedly took on a Mahre-like aspect, but that happened more often in the more accomplished, race-oriented groups above us. Still, we all felt we had improved substantially by the end of the week, even people who had been on the courses before, sometimes as often as three or four times. However, the unflattering eye of the video camera, used to film the slalom races indicated that we still had enough rough edges to keep the Mahres in business for a few years yet.

It is quite a thrill (once you get over the embarrassment) to have an Olympie gold medallist skiing patiently backwards into a mini-blizzard while you hold your poles out in front of you to keep your shoulders facing downhill, and concentrate oo improving what are decidedly constipated left turns. It does oot matter if you are a skiing klutz like me or a frustrated Franz Klammer, only held back by the oeed to earn a living – the Mahres will make time for you. Our group's permanent instructor, a man called Slotcar, was patient, and funny. He had been trained in the Mahre methods, and we listened to what he said.

In our intermediate ability group, the mornings tended to be taken up with relatively gentle runs during which we practised improving our technique and tried out tricky manoeuvres like skiing oo one leg or going downhill backwards on purpose. In the afternoons, we would have our pick of the runs on Keystone's three mountains. We could even ski at night, if we had the nerve and the energy, for 13 runs are lit up every night.

The Mahre winter courses run from December to March and a five-day session costs $475, which includes lift tickets, but not lodging. That has to be arranged separately but the resort has a wide choice of self-catering and hotel accommodation. There are also summer courses, which can include accommodation, and the boast is that in 16 summers not one sessioo has been cancelled because of lack of snow.

One word of warning: only go in January if you are extremely hardy – the wind chill factor sends temperatures plummeting, and the frost-bite warnings are serious. Keystone is 9,000ft up and a lot of the runs start at over 11,000ft, so balmy it ain't. And one other thing: keep a weather eye out for Fran Choi. One more course and she should be unstoppable.

● *Contact: Mahre Training Centers, Keystone Ski School, Box 38, Keystone, Colorado 80435 (010 1 303 468 4170).*

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

AUSTRALASIA AND AROUND THE WORLD

Trailfinders offer more low cost flights and stopovers to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970 we can tailor make your itinerary with up to 55% discounts on Hotels and Car Hire – Worldwide.

SOME CURRENT BEST BUYS

	o/w	rtn		o/w	rtn
SYDNEY	£429	£730	KATHMANDU	£305	£495
PERTH	£428	£659	BEIJING	£275	£540
AUCKLAND	£468	£775	CAIRO	£176	£260
BANGKOK	£255	£480	NAIROBI	£253	£370
HONG KONG	£273	£546	JO'BURG	£285	£539
SINGAPORE	£260	£506	LIMA	£280	£539
BALI	£308	£623	LOS ANGELES	£175	£315
TOKYO	£341	£627	NEW YORK	£145	£218
DELHI/BOMBAY	£243	£397	MIAMI	£173	£205
MAURITIUS	£462	£638	GENEVA	–	£99

AROUND THE WORLD
London – Delhi – Bangkok
Sydney – Fiji – Honolulu – Vancouver – London £895
London – Bangkok – Singapore – Perth – Sydney – Tahiti – Los Angeles – London £973

Longhaul Flights 01 938 3366 Transatlantic and European 01 938 3232
First and Business Class 01 938 3444
Open: Monday – Saturday 9-6 Thursday 9-7 Sunday 10-2
TRAILFINDERS LTD, 42-48 Earls Court Road, London W8 6EJ
Fully licensed and government bonded ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

YES 0% INCREASE XMAS – 'OCT 90
Flts fr £97 - £199 Hols fr £95 - £229
FARO ... 17,21,22,24,28,31/12 7,14,21,28/1 4,11,18,25/2 4,11,18,25/3 1,8,15,22,29/4
TENERIFE ... 19,22,24,26,28,31/12 2,5,7,9,12,14,16,19,21,23,26,28,30/1 2,4,6,9,11/2
LANZAROTE 20,21,27,30/12 3,4,11,18,25/1 1,8,15,22/2 1,8,15,22,29/3 5,12,19,26/4
LAS PALMAS 18,21/12 27/12 1,8,15,22,29/1 5,12,19,26/2 5,12,19,26/3 2,9,16,23,30/4
ATHENS & ISLANDS 22,27/12 5,12,19,26/1 2,9,16,23/2 2,9,16,23,30/3 6,13,20,27/4
MALAGA ... 19,21,23,24,28,29,31/12 2,5,7,9,12,21,23,27,30/1 3,6,10,13,17,20,24,27/2
ALICANTE ... 19,21,23,28,30,31/12 2,5,7,9,12,20,23,27,31/1 3,6,10,13,17,20,24/2
CYPRUS ... 29,30/12 3,5,10,12,17,19,24,26,31/1 2,7,9,14,16,21,23,28/2 2,7,9,14/3
MAY – OCT ONE PRICE BOOK NOW – ATHENS, CORFU £119
CRETE, RHODES, KOS, SKIATHOS, ZANTE, SALONICA rtn £128
Discounts: families, groups 4+ FREE INSURANCE + PRIZE DRAW
MARGEER HOLS ABTA 90614 ATOL 1626
HOLS 01-879 4100 FLTS 01-879 9920 Brochures & Sales

GOLF IN INDIA - 3 - 24 FEBRUARY 1990
An exciting and enchanting holiday based in Bombay, Calcutta and New Delhi, where armies of servants almost outnumber the guests. We will be playing, amongst others, The Royal Calcutta, founded in 1829, The Bombay Presidency and the New Delhi Golf Club, which was re-designed by Peter Thompson in 1975. Lots of golf, and comprehensive excluding matches against local golfers, some warm and generous hospitality by local hosts, plenty of sightseeing, shopping, relaxing by the pool-side or in sporting pursuits and a wonderful opportunity to indulge your appetites with a vast choice of exotic cuisine. And what's more, the weather is just heavenly - a lazy warm sun in clear wintry blue skies.
Cost £2180 per person.
Travel India Ltd.
Tel: 01-681-0179

AUSTRALIA
£539
(0420) 88724 (24 hrs)
TRAVELBAG
Dept. EA 12 High Street, Alton, Hants. GU34 1BN

When booking Air Charter based travel you are strongly advised to obtain the name and ATOL number of the Tour Operator with whom you will contracted. You should ensure that the confirmation advice carries this information. If you have any doubts check with the ATOL Section of the Civil Aviation Authority on 01-832 5620.

ABOVE-AVERAGE Disc. U.T.C. 01-948 4662 or (0753) 21780. (Near Heathrow). ABTA 84966.

AFRICAN/AUSTRALIAN Seats Specialists - Visa/Access. Africa 01-392 1747. Australia 01-978 8146. World travel. IATA 91216974. ABTA 60192.

AIR TRAVEL ADVISORY Bureau Call and keep the air fare small! Tel 01 636 5000. Manchester 061 832 2000. Birmingham 021 783 2000.

AMAZING!! Cheap fares - USA, Canada, Aus/NZ, S America, Far East, Middle East, Africa & Asia. I call save £££. Jupiter 01-436 2711 Access/Visa.

Mysteries of India
Tailor-made journeys in India and Nepal for the independent traveller
For our brochure call 01-930 3803 (24hrs)
Pleaseseekers Ltd.
32 Haymarket London SW1
ABTA 49638
INDIA

FLIGHTS TO ASIA
HONG KONG BANGKOK
SINGAPORE
RETURN from £399
Phone us now for our best fares, hotel rates and tours throughout Asia.
TRAVELBAG
Dept EA 12 High Street, Alton, Hants. GU34 1BN
(0420) 88724 (24 hours)

ORIENTOURS
SPECIAL TOURS TO JORDAN & THE SINAI
THE CHURCHES & HILL STATIONS OF SOUTHERN INDIA
For details write/phone 01-434 1551 Dept. TT
ORIENTOURS (London) Ltd
Kent House, 87 Regent St. London, W1R 8LS
ABTA 48485 ATOL 1818

CHEAP Flights Worldwide. Haymarket Tvl. 01-930 1366.

CHINA. Australia. Worldwide Travel. Ring 01 736 1879 for brochure now.

CUT PRICE Cruis & 1st class USA & worldwide. 01-224 4277.

HOLS/FLTS Cyprus Greece Malta Spain Morocco. Panworld/Greekorama Travel Ltd. 734 2662 ABTA 32980 ATOL 1438

JO'BURG, CAPETOWN. Dec/Jan depts from £599 rtns. Tel: 01 580 8727 xx101. ABTA A4619. Credit cards.

NAIROBI Xmas seat sale! £395 return. Limited seats. Call Cruisers Travel 01-868 0106 visa/access. ABTA 53630.

WILDLIFE OF INDIA & NEPAL
10 FEB 1990
A 21 day journey of exquisite beauty. Siberian cranes and painted storks in Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary; sambar, chital and tigers in Ranthambore, Dudwa and Chitwan National Parks plus the glories of the Taj Mahal and the Palaces of the Pink City of Jaipur. Price £1,930 Naturalist leader, Tony Pym
TWICKERS WORLD
22 CHURCH ST. TWICKENHAM
01-892 7606/8164
24 HR BROCHURE: 01-891 7851
ABTA 60340

CITYSPRINT
LUXURY EUROPEAN COACH SERVICES
£42 PARIS
£38 AMSTERDAM
£36 BRUSSELS
PLUS MANY OTHER DESTINATIONS
Daily Daytime Services from London Victoria
See your local Travel Agent or call Newmarket
01 - 554 7061

Some discounted schedule flights when booked through non IATA/ABTA travel agencies may not be covered by a bonding protection scheme. Therefore, readers should consider the necessity for independent travel insurance and should be satisfied that they has taken all precautions before entering into travel arrangements.

SUPERB VALUE Hols to Morocco, Gambia, Cyprus, Madeira, Egypt, Mexico, Caribbean, Israel etc. Tel: Freedom Holidays 01-741 4471 (ABTA 97008).

TAKE THEM OFF to Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Rome, Florence, Venice, Vienna and Budapest. Time Off Chester Close London SW1. 01-235 8070. ABTA 56374

TUNISIA & MOROCCO. The best beach hotels in North Africa. Call us at the Tunisian Hotel Assoc. Tel: 01-373 4411.

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

CARIBBEAN. 43 foot luxury motor yacht, avail for charter. UK qual skipper. From £1,800 per week. Tel (0746) 767404.

SELF-CATERING

Palm LUXURY VILLAS
WITH POOLS AND MAIDS. "THE DREAM" FOR 1990
Prestigious private luxury villas in superb locations. Weekly rentals from approx £800 to over £10,000. Sun soaked or island. Scheduled flights, hostess, car-hire also arranged. Let us help to make your "dream" become a reality
● SOUTH OF FRANCE ● THE ALGARVE ● SELECT SPAIN
ACCESS VISA AMEX
PHONE FOR OUR FREE 1990 COLOUR BROCHURE NOW
Palm LUXURY VILLAS 0264-849829 24 HRS OPEN 7 DAYS

CYPRUS - Long term vacations. Fully furnished apts in sunny seaside resorts. Monthly rentals till March 1990 excl. electricity but incl. taxes. Cost from: 1 brm £150, 2 brm £200, 3 brm £250. Short term vacation also available. Apply: London Flat Management Co Ltd, Box 6448, Limassol, Cyprus. Tel. 0612363. Tlx 6136. Fax 27618.

S.DORDOGNE Idyllic country house's & pool. From £85 p.p.p.w. Tel (010 33) 53 22 87 16. Resident British owner.

SKI Argentiere/ Chamonix. Self catering apartment. From £300 for 6/7 bedded. (06284) 74243.

SELF-CATERING CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS. St James. Country hse secluded in 1¼ acres. Pool. 5 mins drive beach. Slps 6/7. 550$ US pw2. (0462) 454294

SELF-CATERING FRANCE

HOTEL ABBAYE
SAINT-GERMAIN ***NN
Between St-Germain-des-Prés and Montparnasse, an authentic XVIIth century building. 45 rooms tastefully decorated and in calm surroundings between the courtyard and the garden. Parking nearby.
10, rue Cassette, F-75006 PARIS.
Tel: 010.33.1.45.44.38.11.
Telex: 208 844.

VILLA RENTALS
COTE D'AZUR
LUXURY PRIVATE VILLAS WITH POOLS. 2 TO 5 BEDROOMS IN ANTIBES/CANNES AREA. FOR COLOUR BROCHURE TEL. 01-658 2264

CONV Barn - picturesque Limousin, lakes, slps 12, from £150 pw. 01-481 8404 for brochure.

LOWE Valley nr Loches, det 3 bdr hse, gdns + superb views fr £245pw. Tel: (0303) 67316.

RECEVE - French Alps. Family Apt. sleeps 6/8. Very near Piste. Avail Christmas & New Year. Tel (061) 632 1924.

NORMANDY. Rural cottage in Camembert area, slps 4. Fishing, riding. From £150 pw. (0533) 859183.

SELF-CATERING ITALY

Enjoy the Italy others cannot reach!
FREE colour brochure:
01 741 2151 (24 hrs)
The Magic of Italy
ABTA 62111 ATOL 1846
"Trading name of Travel Club of Europe"
"The Hallmark of Travel Club"

SELF-CATERING U.S.A.

FLORIDA CONNECTION Beautiful villas to let. Vacancies for Christmas and Easter. Orlando nr Disney and New Port Richey near Beach. Tel: 01-773 0612.

SELF-CATERING PORTUGAL

ALGARVE - 5* luxury villa. Sleeps 10. Under 16's free accomodation. Maid service. Lrg pool. On private complex. Tel: Cherry (0892) 816760.

SPECIAL INTEREST

GOLF Holidays in the Algarve. Tailormade to suit your needs. Tel: 01-682 1375. 24 hrs.

TENNIS HOLIDAYS Xmas and New Year at the Jonathan Marlowe Algarve Tennis Centre 01-767 8710 24 hrs.

SPECIAL INTEREST

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA
We specialise, exclusively, Small group escorted tours: individual bespoke itineraries and for independent travellers a range of low cost flight options that is second to none.
Please ask for brochures.
16 Devonshire Rd, London W4
Flights tel 747 3108
Tours tel 747 8315
24 hours answering
ATOL 1141 BONDED

EXPLORE Original Adventures
EXPLORE Original Adventures
An exciting choice of over 90 different tours, treks, safaris & expeditions in more than 50 countries around the world. Seatreks & Sailtreks, Cultural & Adventure Touring, Day Walks, Rambles, Village-to-Village Hiking, Major Treks, Wildlife & Natural History, Wilderness Experience & Deserts, Raft & River Journeys. The kind of adventure travel most people only dream about.
All in Explore's superb 56-page colour brochure, packed with maps, photos and detailed itineraries. 2 to 4 weeks in Europe, Africa, the Near East, Asia and the Americas. Small groups, expertly led. Regular slide shows in Central London. For brochure contact: Explore Worldwide (SAT), 1 Frederick St, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1LQ. ☎ 0252 344161 (24hrs).

EXPLORE THE REAL INDIA
Unique tours by Private Railway Carriage - North & South or South only from £645 excl. flights.
BUTTERFIELD'S INDIAN RAILWAY TOURS
Barlow Fleming, Driffield, E.Yorks. Tel: 029-287 231

WINTER SPORTS

THE DAY THAT THE SNOW CAME DOWN, OUR PRICES WENT DOWN TOO

The oews we've been waiting for finally came oo Tuesday. The snow had arrived. And plenty of it.
To celebrate the new ski season, we're trimming the prices of our New Year holidays.
Our biggest bargain is £150 off 10-day breaks leaving Dec 27/28. Prices now start at £344. We're also cutting £50 off ooe week breaks leaving Jan 6/7 and Jan 14/15, with prices now from £194 and £244, respectively.
Doo't forget that our prices include flights, Chalet or Clubhotel accommodatioo, first rate food with complimentary wine, and free ski guiding.
VAL D'ISERE, MERIBEL, VERBIER, ZERMATT, COURMAYEUR, KITZBUHEL, ST. ANTON.
Mark Warner
For booking details call 01-938 1851 now
ABTA ATOL

NEILSON
PRICE MELTERS!
FLIGHT ONLY - £59 DEC 23RD.
(Stopo to Salzburg)
PRICE MELTERS

DATE	RESORT	DEP. AIRPORT	HOTEL	NIGHTS	PRICE
23/12/89	Saalbach	Glasgow	[illegible]	7	£149
23/12/89	Saalbach	Glasgow	[illegible]	7	£209
30/12/89	Saalbach	Glasgow	[illegible]	7	£209
30/12/89	Saalbach	Glasgow	[illegible]	7	£179

NAMED PROPERTIES

DATE	RESORT	PROPERTY	ROOM TYPE	NIGHTS	PRICE
23/12/89	Kitzbühel	Stockhaus	[illegible]	7	£329
30/12/89	Kitzbühel	Stockhaus	[illegible]	7	£349
23/12/89	Alleghe	Dolomiti Palace	[illegible]	7	£219

FOR FURTHER DETAILS - SEE YOUR LOCAL ABTA TRAVEL AGENT OR CONTACT NEILSON ON
0532 744422
ABTA 45043

ARGENTIERE & Chamonix, great skiing, quality hols, cal broch. Mtn Air Ski Hols. Jan Specials. Call today! (0624) 823552.

AVAILABILITY 6th & 13th Jan at promotional prices. Chalets hotels & self cat. Personal service, guarantee skiing, short transfers. Ski Peak 042879-2272

BARGAIN 6/13 Jan Argentiere city ski chalet catered. Alpine Lite 0705 269659

CATERED CHALETS in France. Excellent skiing. Cat & Mat Ski. Tel 0788 812633 for brochure

CHAMONIX FRANCE - Ski apartment to let, most dates available. Tel: (021) 308 1818 or (021) 352 0507

CHALET. Spacious apts. Sleep 6 or 8. Privately owned, beautifully furnished. (0272) 388264

IT'S SNOWING. Call Ski Scott Dunn for late availability over New Year. Catered chalets in Chatrpey & Zermatt. 01-602 6029 ATOL 2471

JOVIAL Band of eccentric hedonist British owned chalet hotel Chatel weekends weeks 10 day holidays Swiss Air flights. Strawberry Ski Co 586 3400

RECEVE Small family party (7) offers 5 places, family welcome, luxury chalet January 8-15. Tel 01-965 0036 day & night.

MERIBEL. The ultimate in catered chalet luxury. 8/10 guests. Phone: 01 878 6094 (24 hours)

SKI COLORADO
WINTER 1990
2 WKS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE 30th DEC FROM ONLY £399
Prices include flights, transfers, accommodation and GUARANTEE ABSOLUTELY NO SURCHARGES
See your travel agent or call 01-399 5144
Crystal

SKI WHIZZ
Happy Christmas Everyone!
"SKI-IN" the 1990's
SPECIAL PRICES
Dec 30th from £229
Jan 13th from £179
1 wk Catered Chalets incl flights
Take this wonderful opportunity to start the New Decade on the right foot
Great Food Good Company
UNBEATABLE VALUE
0284 756505 (24)
Extra Welcome Ltd ATOL 2318

FLADON LINES
The best chalets for less!
+ Hotels & Apartments
Departures from Manchester Newcastle & Glasgow
0532 688868
ABTA No 15999 ATOL 1292

Ski Expo
1 in 4 FREE
for Christmas and New Year chalet party bookings until remaining air seats run out. Traditional resorts with big skiing areas. Access to glacier skiing. January prices from only £198 by air.
TELEPHONE (0252) 816788 (24 hrs)
ABTA 55041 AITO ATOL 2086

Ski Highlife
In the fabulous Whistler mountains of Vancouver. Fantastic snow, long season. We are the specialist. Discount for early bookings.
0924 430500

COLLINEIGE SKI.
Chamonix Valley, Meribel, Courmayeur, Villars. Top Resorts. Super Chalets. Simply The Best.
Call (0276) 24262. or (0836) 317489 (w/e)

MERIBEL - Mottaret. Luxury apartment. S/C. Sleeps 6. Superb skiing. Excellent views and large terrace. Write to Mrs MO Record, Hayne Barn, Sellwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4QH. 0303 266612

MERIBEL - Sensational privately owned luxury Chalet. Few minutes walk to slopes and village. Spectacular views. Sleeps 8 to 8. Tel: 01 731 7314 or after Dec 12th, France 79086077.

MERIBEL. Luxury apartment for 8 people available New Year & some dates in January. Call 042879-2272

MERIBEL. Private lux ski accom. quality catering and comfort. Superb views. (05317) 2717.

MERIBEL - Exclusive chalet, sleeps 6/8, Cordon Bleu cook, ski guide, driver, very competitive prices. Book now on 01-629 2015 (weekday). 0722 780170 (weekend).

MERIBEL. Comfortable staffed family chalet. Superb food. Exclusive service. Ski guiding. Jan £369 pw. Also on piste apt. Mottaret. Tel: (0948) 2703.

SECOND person to share 4 month's skiing. France/Austria. Feb/March 1990. Apply 8 Queensgate Drive, Royton, Lancs OL2 5SD.

SKI LA Plagne from Champagny. Private Ski Chalet, sleeps 10/12 in comfort. Special rates for January. Available for Easter. Tel: 0268 561 109.

VERBIER lux ski near lifts spec views slps 4/6, 3 bath, chalet girl. £200 pp pw 01-509 0501.

X-COUNTRY SKIING Hotel or S/C. All ages & abilities. Tel S.V.P France (0243) 577862.

CORNWALL & DEVON

CORNWALL. Large house sleeps easily avail new year (30/12-1/1). Tel:(0737) 842185

NORTHUMBRIA

NTH PENNINE cottage slps 6/8. £200 pw incl CH, TV etc. Breathtaking view, close to 3 National Parks. (02228) 412012.

IRELAND

SHAMROCK COTTAGES, 60 High St, Wellington, Somerset. (0884) 40864. Col broch of 150 select houses. Discount fares.

LONDON

HOLIDAY flats, 2/5 persons from £200 pw, 01-262 5771, 131 Gloucester Terrace, London.

EAST ANGLIA

ALDEBURGH, Suffolk. Seaside cottage, sleeps 6/8, available Xmas until December 29th and holiday lets throughout 1990. Tel: 01-359 4564.

NORWICH Any 6 nights at The Post House Hotel, Norwich in Jan/Feb 1990, dinner, room, bkfst for £120 pp. Don't delay book today! (0603) 56451.

SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH Quality apartments by the day, lift, laundry etc. Linlee Court 031 337 4040.

WALES

SNOWDONIA
MEADOWSUITE HOTEL
Llanrwst, Gwynedd
(4 miles from Betws-Y-Coed)
January & February 1990 mid-week breaks £29.50 per person per night. Dinner, Bed Breakfast. Egon Ronay recommended. In all the top food guides
Tel 0492 640732

GWENT spac hse part of manor, sleeps 5. Mod Effurn. Next door Raglan Call Wye Valley border. Avail March 90. 0291 690492.

YORKSHIRE

AMPLEFORTH. Charming house slps 6: log fires, peace. Fr £180 pw all year. (051) 9292209.

Focus On · WINTER BREAKS

WEEKEND BREAKS
The George Hotel, Castle Cary, SOMERSET BA7 7AH
13th Century thatched coaching inn. Centrally located in rich touring area. Beautiful scenery, country walks. 17 rooms with ensuite facilities. Fine bar food & taste of wine restaurant. 2 hrs central London. Double room 2 nights £30 B&B.
Please call (0963) 50761 for a brochure.

Country rambles B&B
Picnic Hampers s/c cottages
Bike hire
Norfolk Country Cottages
(0692) 650236

DARTSIDE HOLIDAYS
Dartmouth, Devon.
Purpose built holiday flats offering superb views. Fully self-contained. 2 bedrooms, bath/shower, kitchen, lounge/dining room, colour tv, heating, private balconies, pkg.
See brochure for more details:
Please quote ref: TT
Tel (08043) 2033

POLHAWN FORT HOTEL
Genuine Napoleonic Fortress in stunning location on Cornish cliffs. 8 thick walls, original fireplaces. Lovely en suite rooms with spectacular sea views. Superb a la carte restaurant. Full central heating, private beach, tennis, golf, bird watching, cliff walks etc. Easily accessible from London. Some Christmas Breaks still available - hurry!
Tel: (0752) 822864

BARTON ANGLER INN
Barton, Norwich
All rooms half price!
4 poster beds available, log fires ect.
IDEAL FOR EXCELLENT FISHING
For more details call (0692) 630740

PENZANCE Comfortably furnished traditional cottage round garden courtyard close to shops, harbour, station with phone. TV. Broch 0736 66848

DUE TO cancellation, luxury Xmas & New Year breaks in Queen Anne country house, N.Norfolk. £185-£195 p.p. for 3 day break. Tel (0485) 70502/70941 for details.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

ENJOY A GOURMET CHRISTMAS IN DORSET
"Vacancies due to late cancellation"
Elegant country restaurant with accommodation offers you a relaxing Christmas break with excellent cuisine and wine, and charming bedrooms, all ensuite.
3 Day Christmas Break £175 pp
4 Day Christmas Break £210 pp
"Recommended by all reputable Hotel and Restaurant guides"
La Belle Alliance
Blandford Forum, Dorset
(0258) 452842

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND
In the COTSWOLDS
At the Minster Lovell Mill.
Prog incl clay shoot, archery, with lots of wining and dining.
Singles welcome
Call PMS (0628) 777556

LAST MINUTE AVAILABILITY
Due to cancellation, 2 double rooms available in delightful luxury Country House for Christmas in the heart of Lakeland.
Michaels Nook, Grasmere, Cumbria
Tel: (09665) 496

ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS?
Why not spend a Victorian Christmas at the Maids Head Hotel, Norwich. Theatre, coastal outing, Horse, Hounds & Hunting Pink, Victorian entertainments, seasonal fayre.
4 days £285.
(0603) 761111.

ESCAPE this New Year to Tudor Manor on wild N.Devon coast, with watch tower, badgers, and books. Elegant dinner and cosy log fires. Donkeys move the gorse, private access in shore. Oakwind comfort in superb setting. (0237) 472415

NEW YEAR week, Scotland, Coylum Bridge Hotel. Luxury chalet to let. Sleeps 6. £950 ono. Tel:(0832) 663059 day or 795488 eves.

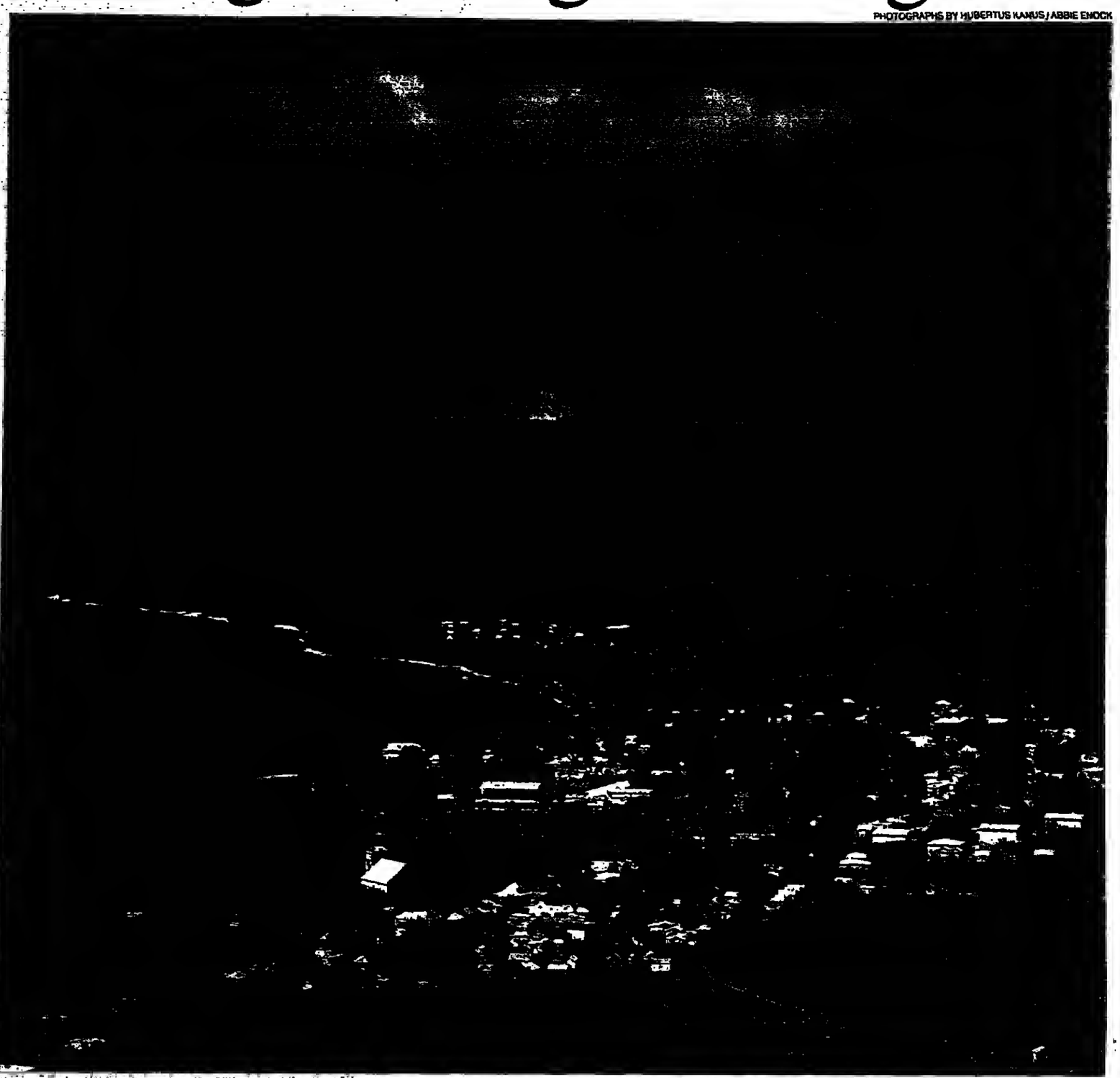
TRADITIONAL Christmas in a 17th Century farmhouse. Melksr Bath. Warm welcome, open fires, home cooking, country peerage. Tel 0373 812650

TRAVEL

Where doing nothing is enough

Michael Watkins revisits St Kitts and Nevis, two islands caught in the lull between sugar and tourism

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HUBERTUS KANUS / ABBIE ENOCK



A view spanning time and tide: Brimstone Hill Fortress (the "Caribbean's Gibraltar"), known to Nelson, guards St Kitts' northern shores. Beyond is the cone-shaped island of St Eustatius

When I called at Gingerland police station for a Nevisian driving licence, two lettuces and a pound of tomatoes, PC 742 was engaged in a power struggle with the sexton of Fig Tree Church. Awaiting the outcome of their domino contest, I was awed by the solemnity of justice which had recently hauled Elvis Liburd (alias "Duck Foot") before the beak for unchaste behaviour. Times have changed since 1817 when Edward Huggins, tried for flogging 32 slaves — 365 lashes to one man, 292 lashes to a woman — was acquitted by jury.

Settling my account in "beewee" dollars, I collected a Jeep and headed for Charlestown, the capital, breaking my journey to call on Dr Platzer, who is regularly entreated by mothers-to-be to "make me a clear baby, doctor dear" ("deliver me a pale-skinned child"). Charlestown traffic was getting out of control. Not long ago I drove from one end to the other, dodging chickens and goats, in 97 seconds; timing myself again, it took three minutes 25 seconds.

Life here is not composed from headlines, just small print that few outsiders bother to read. When I am away from Nevis, in Needham Market or New York, I begin to doubt its existence. It assumes a faerie dimension, its qualities aligned with fiction, not with reality. If you were to set it to music, the melodies would owe more to *HMS Pinafore* than to *Tosca*; yet with a formidable cast. Remember Nelson. For it was at Montpelier, on March 11, 1787, that Fanny Nisbet married her sailor Horatio, amid trappings that would not have disgraced a Gilbert and Sullivan production. Prince William Henry, later King William IV, gave the bride away; Lieutenant Digby Dent attended the groom; and if there intruded a note of dissent, it was in an off-stage solo rendered by Captain Pringle, who opined that it was a "national loss that such an officer should marry".

Nevertheless, the marriage was registered at Fig Tree Church where, on Sundays, exhortations of fire and brimstone and sudden hymnal gusts seem to lift the corrugated tin roof off its pillars.

Pumpkins grow on Nevis, but they are not of the species that turn into jewelled coaches; so the population has fallen, and many inhabitants have followed the Golden Fleece to the Bronx or to London town. Those who remain survive on fishing, agriculture, postal orders from abroad; and, between times, draw on infinite reserves of good nature and inertia.

Doing nothing in Nevis is a condition from which there was no known cure. Tourism, the smokeless industry, was a blameless affair virtually pioneered by my friend James Milnes Gaskell who, 25 years ago, bought Montpelier Plantation. Reconstructing the Great House, he added a few cottages, a pool, landscaped 100 acres with headache plants and hibiscus, then made twin statements which, from anyone else, might sound arrogant: "We love it. You will too."

At Montpelier one is deprived of all mechanical sound; there is instead the catarrhal cronk of donkeys and a wind that bounces off the 3,232ft Peak of Nevis. The library is full of Bertie Wooster, Graham Greene and Rose Macaulay; there are Mozart tapes, good food and take-it-or-leave-it conversation. Montpelier is further deprived of rosettes, awards, stars; yet is unarguably the finest hotel in the galactic system.

But competition looms. Down on Pinney's Beach (named after Azariah Pinney, pardoned for his part in the Monmouth Rebellion), Four Seasons is due to open next year. Set amid 340 acres, it will have 196 apartments, a sports centre, Trent Jones golf course, shopping mall, in-room movies, air-con and much, much more. So much, I was told, that guests will have no reason to escape the deodorized sanctity of its premises.

I'm sorry, though, that they will not see the ruined sugar mills or listen for the ghostly spirituals of slaves who worked the island's 80 plantations. They will not be visited by the sins of our fathers, or climb the hill to Morningstar, read gate-signs saying "Close Me Back", or learn to recognize powder-puff plants. But I'm sure the Four Seasons' board of directors knows best.

> *'Jolly plans are afoot to turn much of St Kitts into a holiday complex'*

By LIAT, Leeward Islands Air Transport (affectionately known as "Luggage In Another Town"), flying time to St Kitts is five minutes. I had been told, jokingly, that the Minister of Eggs, Furniture and Tourism would meet me; but he delegated this onerous task to Mr Murphy, a taxi driver who joined me for breakfast in Basseterre as we waited for the government office to open.

When it did, they were very jolly about plans to develop Salt Pond Estate peninsula, one sixth of the total land area, into a resort complex. "No, no," they enthused as my jaw sagged, "it will be carefully monitored, nothing will be allowed to spoil the natural beauty." I said that if a wilderness was converted into apartments-golf-course-shopping-malls and much, much more without spoiling the natural beauty they would, in my opinion, have solved the riddle of the universe.

But they lent me a car, bless them; which I pointed about as far away from the capital as you can get. Past Bloody Point, Half Way Tree, Belle Tête, to Rawlins Plantation, where I lunched thoughtfully and almost wordlessly with the owner, Philip Walwyn, whose antecedents, members of the original plantocracy, owned tracts of sugar cane. You couldn't see another house; a breeze cut swathes through the cane; far away rose the cone-shaped outline of St Eustatius and, further still, Saba. I mentioned the Salt Pond project, but Walwyn grunted; he didn't want to discuss it. We finished lunch in companionable silence, content with things the way they were.

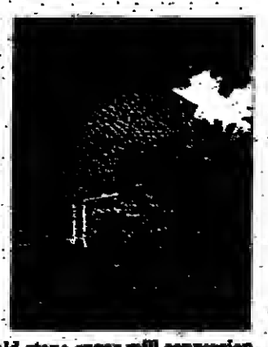
The next two nights I slept at The Golden Lemon Inn as the guest of Arthur Leamon, who came here 25 years ago.

He gave me a room marginally smaller than the Spanish Riding School, with a bed at such an altitude from the floor you needed a scaling ladder. The furniture was antique, glowing quietly to itself and smelling of beeswax. After idle days in the sun my fellow guests glowed quietly too; it was the least obtrusive place.

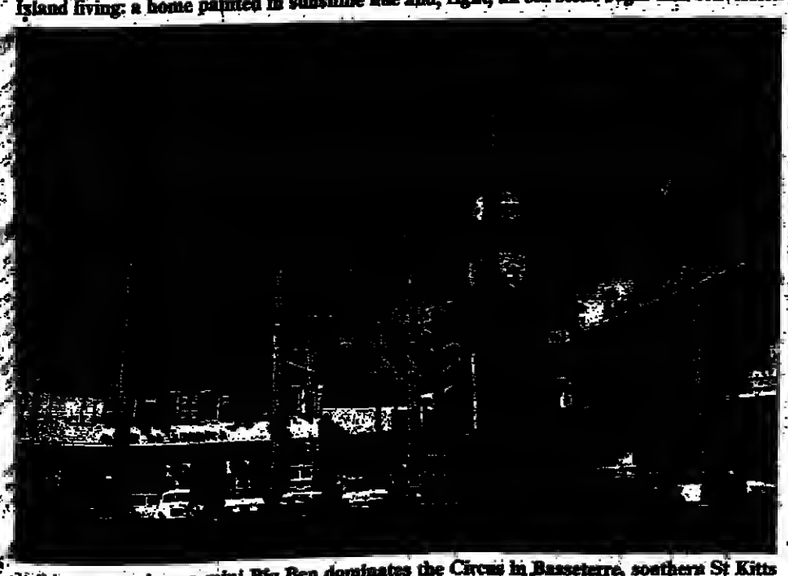
St Kitts has three main attractions: Brimstone Hill's fortress (the "Caribbean's Gibraltar"), Carib petroglyphs at Old Road Town, and Caribelle Batik Factory. You can't miss them; perhaps you shouldn't try, particularly Brimstone. But I remember the island best for its landscape of marvellous half-hidden, half-lost churches, such as at Middle Island Village, gnarled by neglect and decay. Scraping lichen off a tombstone, I unveiled an epitaph to a "much lamented gent. Tho. Warner ... first read, then weepe with the loss of noble blood". Yes, the same Sir Thomas Warner, leader of the British landing party of 1623.

I remember the Circus in Basseterre with its Big Ben centrepiece. I think fondly of shop notices: "Pigs' Ears and Feet Today", "Goat Water for Sale." Less fondly do I recall tourists in their tank tops and bikini bottoms, though I realize that it is fashionable these days to explore the world in one's underwear. And I cannot forget, on a board outside a gingerbread shop of amazing grace, the Workers' League (Est. 1932) admonition: "He that hasteneth to be rich hath an evil eye and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him."

For whom the bell tolls, dear Minister of Eggs; it tolls for thee.

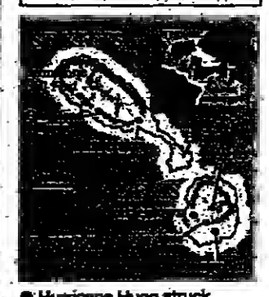


Island living: a home painted in sunshine hue and, right, an old stone sugar mill conversion



Striking centrepiece: a mini Big Ben dominates the Circus in Basseterre, southern St Kitts

TRAVEL NOTES



● Hurricane Hugo struck St Kitts and Nevis shortly after Watkins left, and work has gone on ever since repairing the damage in time for the winter season. Many hotels are re-opening this weekend.

● The new St Kitts and Nevis Tourist Office at 10 Kensington Court, London. W8 5DL (01-376 0881) has details of openings.

● Watkins flew from London to Antigua with British Airways (reservations 01-897 4000). The low-season Apex fare costs £497 return, first-class £2,532 return. Inter-island flights were with Leeward Island Air Transport. BA can book through fares to St Kitts or Nevis. The Apex price to either island is £518.

● There are several tour operators handling Montpelier Plantation Inn, Nevis, and Golden Lemon Inn, St Kitts. Expect to pay about £140 a day per couple for room, breakfast and dinner. For further advice consult the tourist office (above).

Your money will go further on our Nile cruises. Swan Hellenic give you a choice of 6 different itineraries on the Nile, aboard our traditional river ship, the "Nile Star".

From a spectacular cruise of Upper Egypt to a unique cruise the whole length of the Nile between Cairo and Aswan, or a shorter cruise between Luxor and Aswan.

Each of our varied itineraries will give you the freedom to explore, relax and learn along the way, as an expert guest lecturer also accompanies every cruise.

All flights, accommodation, meals, tips and excursions are included in the price.

A 15 day cruise of Upper Egypt which includes 3 days in Cairo costs from only £1,400. With no hidden extras.

However far you cruise with Swan Hellenic, you'll know exactly how far your money will go.

Please send me more information on your Nile Cruises ☐ Please send me details on these other holidays: Art Treasures and Natural History Tours ☐ Rhine Cruises ☐ Mediterranean Cruises ☐

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Please post to: Swan Hellenic Brochure Service, Park Farm, Folkestone, Kent CT18 5DZ.

SWAN HELLENIC P&O

"Afore ye go"